

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Where do you intend to
celebrate Thanksgiving
this year?

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Care Packages

Volunteers will do the final packing today of care packages for CNMI servicemembers.

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Snowbound

Holiday travelers in the U.S. contend with a chaotic mix of snow, sleet and ice.

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Saipan Zoo

Saipan Zoo features a collection of exotic and barn animals for locals and tourists alike.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

A close eye on Korea tension

NKorea warns region is on the brink of war



A dog rests at houses destroyed by North Korean shelling on the Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010.

» Artillery heard on tense Yellow Sea island

By FOSTER KLUG and JIN-MAN LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Friday that U.S.-South Korean

plans for military maneuvers put the peninsula on the brink of war, and appeared to launch its own artillery drills

within sight of an island it showered with a deadly barrage this week.

The fresh artillery blasts were especially defiant because they came just after the top U.S. commander in South Korea, Gen. Walter Sharp, toured the country's Yeonpyeong Island in a show of solidarity with Seoul and to survey damage from Tuesday's hail of North Korean artillery fire that killed four people.

None of the latest rounds hit the South's territory, and U.S. military

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» Minimal impact on Korean arrivals, bookings seen

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Growing tensions between North and South Korea pose no immediate threat to the Marianas, but the local government is keeping a close eye on developments in the region, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan.

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CHRISTMAS IS NEAR

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Children play by the foot of the 30-foot Christmas tree at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Construction and decoration of the tree was spearheaded by the First Lady's Vision Foundation and the Office of Women's Affairs through the help of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Corrections.

3 teens rescued after 50 days adrift in Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Three teenagers survived 50 days adrift in a tiny boat in the South Pacific by drinking rainwater and eating raw fish



One of three boys from Tokelau island, center, is helped on his arrival at the Stanley Brown Naval Base in Suva, Fiji, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010.

and a seagull before being rescued by a passing trawler, a senior crewman on the fishing vessel said.

The trio—Samuel Pelesa and Filo Filo, both 15, and Edward Nasau, 14—had been given up for dead on their coral atoll in the Tokelau islands, where a memorial service was held for them after extensive searches failed to find them.

The boys set off on Oct. 5 in their aluminum dinghy from their home island to one nearby. It's not known how they went missing, but the outboard motor on their boat may have broken down at sea.

Worried family members reported them missing and the New Zealand air force launched a sea search. No sign of

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EPA: CUC's failure to meet deadlines unacceptable. PAGE 2
CNMI Boy Scouts on the lookout for adult leaders. PAGE 5

Local

Care packages for NMI soldiers ready for shipment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Volunteers and elected government officials are expected to lend a helping hand today at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center for the final packing of goods and items that will be shipped to CNMI servicemembers scattered across the globe.

Geri Willis, founder and program director of Operation CNMI Homefront Support, said yesterday that the final packing will start early in the morning.

"We're starting to pack at 8:30 and will probably be completed by noon. Congressman Kilili and several senators stated they would be there, plus numerous other community members," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that all care packages will be taken to the post office today after the packing. Local Red Cross official John Hirsh has made arrangements with the post office to make the shipping possible.

There are an estimated 900 military service members from the CNMI. However, because of the difficulty in finding their names and locations, the Operation CNMI Home Front Support was only able to locate over 200 members who are assigned



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School Stuco officers and members show the canned goods they collected for the island's servicemembers. In the photo, from left, are adviser Arisa Sakai Peters, STUCO president Joshua Diaz, Mark San Juan, IT&E's Nola Hix, and National Honor Society president Kaelani Demapan.

in different destinations.

Besides foodstuffs, the soldiers will also receive newspapers and other materials donated by other sponsors from the

community and private sector. Cards and letters from students are also among the special items in the care packages.

"We will make about 50 ex-

tras packages as people will still email us with addresses after the due date and we don't want to leave them out," Willis added.

To go with the special packages are letters to the soldiers. It states: "Happy holidays to you from your friends and family within the CNMI. Operation CNMI Homefront Support is now in its third year of operation, with teams from NMC, MCV, IT&E and the American Red Cross to gather items to send to deployed military personnel from the CNMI. We want you to know that we appreciate your service to our country and that you're in our hearts, prayers and on our minds."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of the Operation CNMI Homefront Support show the boxes of goods that will be taken to the post office for delivery to military servicemembers.

Lang: Not automatic he will support Stanley's casino bill

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov.-Saipan) said it's not a given he that will automatically support any bill that introduces casino gambling on Saipan.

The former governor said he is aware that Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has pre-filed a Saipan casino bill, but admitted that he hasn't come around to study, much less read, the legislation.

"Just because it's a casino bill doesn't mean I will support it. As of now I haven't read Torres' bill. I hope it will not have a lot of amendments. It doesn't have to be like my bill as long as it's something that's acceptable to investors," he said.

Tenorio said the original Saipan casino bill he introduced

that passed the House before being rejected by Senate a couple of months ago required a minimum investment of \$100 million.

"I don't know if Rep. Stanley Torres' bill will have a minimum investment requirement. I want to make sure it's a reasonable amount. I don't want it to be \$25 million or \$50 million," he said.

Tenorio said the \$100 million floor required in his original bill was meant to safeguard the interest of Rota and Tinian.

"I don't want to take away potential investors from Tinian and Rota. If we make it cheap, they will invest here and not go to Tinian and Rota. I hope the minimum investment is, if not \$100 million, it will be \$75 million," he said.

Torres pre-filed House Bill 17-130 earlier this month and it

authorizes gambling enterprises not only on Saipan but also on Rota and Tinian, where voters had already approved casino operations years back.

In justifying his introduction of a new casino bill for Saipan, Torres said gambling proponents brought up the idea of having such legislation introduced by a House member other than Tenorio because the former governor has been at odds with senators on a host of issues.

Torres said he hopes the Senate will consider his bill. He said Tenorio's seemingly "antagonistic" personality may be the only thing stopping senators from approving the previous Saipan casino bill.

H.B. 17-130, or the Commonwealth Casino Control Act, gives money to Commonwealth-wide programs

and activities.

Under the bill, 10 percent of gaming tax revenues collected will be appropriated and earmarked to the CNMI Scholarship.

Another 10 percent will be given to medical referrals; 25 percent for utility assistance; 25 percent for air travel subsidies within the CNMI and Guam; and 30 percent for other programs as approved by the Legislature.

The bill imposes a 10 percent gaming tax.

All taxes, fees, fines, penalties and other revenue collected by or on behalf of the casino commission with respect to the operation of a casino is deemed to be "general revenues" that will be deposited into the Commonwealth Treasury, and subject for general appropriations by the Legislature.

Last Wednesday, senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona donated boxes of canned goods for the soldiers.

The Saipan Southern High School's student council, led by adviser Arisa Sakai Peters and

president Joshua Diaz, also donated canned goods for the service members.

All goods are expected to be delivered to the soldiers all over the world around Christmas time.

EPA: CUC's failure to meet deadlines unacceptable

» CUC says its goal remains to complete all projects by deadlines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has asked the federal court to make it clear to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that its "quarterly renegotiations" with EPA due to continued failure to comply with the agreed upon deadlines "is not acceptable."

CUC, however, stated that, despite the continued delays, its goal continues to be the completion of all projects by all deadlines.

EPA, in its second status report filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday, acknowledged that CUC has made some progress, especially in the hiring of better qualified employees.

In its report, Bradley R. O'Brien, counsel for EPA, noted that they are concerned that CUC will seek to continuously use status conferences to "re-negotiate" the stipulated orders as the utility agency fails to comply with these stipulated orders, second joint stipulation, and court orders.

EPA has twice entered into stipulations with CUC this calendar year, creating "catch-up" deadlines for some requirements.

O'Brien said that CUC failed to meet the vast majority of the deadlines established by the first joint stipulation, and now reports to the court that it will not meet the other deadlines mandated by the second joint stipulation.

CUC earlier reported that it could not make a timely completion of the cleanout of used oil at Tank 104 at CUC's power plant in Lower Base and the construction of the new CUC oil pipeline.

The first and second stipulated orders, entered by EPA and CUC, were intended to resolve longstanding deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program.

O'Brien underscored the importance of the court's or-

ders to drive CUC's compliance path.

"The need to re-affirm to CUC that its activities are governed by the stipulated orders does not solely relate to deadlines, but attaches to the nature of the orders themselves," he said.

These orders, O'Brien said, are important in requiring CUC to maintain adequate chlorine supplies for its drinking water, provide a properly functioning wastewater system, to clean out and integrity test the oil storage tanks, operate and maintain safe pipelines, and to clean up past and future oil spills.

He said EPA has never wavered from the fact that the original stipulated orders deadlines still apply to CUC, but it has worked with CUC through two joint stipulations over a nine-month period to allow the utility agency to focus on specific projects and "catch-up" so that the parties can then operate solely under the stipulated orders—including the time frames and deadlines.

EPA asked the court to direct CUC to operate within the orders and to make clear to CUC that quarterly re-negotiations of the stipulated orders deadlines as part of a status conference or otherwise is "unacceptable."

In CUC's second status report filed in court on Nov. 13, 2010, CUC counsel Deborah E. Fisher said the utility agency has demonstrated its commitment to accomplishing the work required by the stipulated orders, and continues to cultivate and pursue a positive working relationship with EPA, whose technical assistance and funding are highly appreciated by CUC.

Fisher said CUC has completed a significant number of required submittals under the second joint stipulation on time, and is well underway on numerous projects.

"CUC has notified EPA and the court in this report of upcoming issues of concern, and will continue to keep EPA informed regularly as projects proceed."

Mafnas is elected chairman of the SHEFA board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Jose C. Mafnas, who is newly appointed to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board of directors, was elected chairman during a special meeting yesterday.

Mafnas won by acclamation after Maggie Camacho, who

was the acting chairperson, declined to be selected to the new set of board officers.

Mafnas is a former customs chief who is now the director of the Department of Finance's Administrative Services Division.

Mafnas was appointed to the board vice former member Felicidad Ogumoro who resigned on Nov. 1. Mafnas was confirmed by

the Senate on Tuesday.

He described the challenges facing the scholarship program as "tough" but assured his readiness to serve the Commonwealth's scholars.

"I may be the chair of this board...but I am not a superman. I need everybody's cooperation. With just a few members on the board, I don't see

any reason why we cannot work together under one goal. My priority is the students and we need to carry out our responsibility without any destruction," said Mafnas after yesterday's election.

Mafnas also lauded the dedication shown by Camacho during the recent impasse with the scholarship board. Camacho's membership on the board, along with that of Josephine Sablan, was earlier questioned by former chair Ogumoro and former consultant William Torres.

The non-renewal of Torres' consultancy contract also

heightened controversies at SHEFA.

But with the selection of new officers yesterday, Mafnas said the board has addressed one of its major challenges: the stability of the board and its composition.

"I think we got rid of one of the challenges here...the issue of membership. For us, there's no issue regarding their status," he said.

Mafnas cited funding as among the major challenges of the program. He assured the board's commitment in finding solutions to these challenges.

Also listed among his priorities is ensuring the timely issuance of students' checks.

"We will try to get the checks

out in a timely manner. For those students that were cleared and have no deficiencies, they should receive their checks on time," he said.

The SHEFA board is composed of five members: Mafnas, Camacho, Josephine Sablan, Juan K. Tenorio, and the newly elected vice chair, Jose C. Leong Guerrero.

SHEFA was established in 2004. *Saipan Tribune* learned that based on its bylaws, the annual election of officers is not mandatory. Ogumoro has been its board chair since its inception six years ago.

The new board is proposing to revisit the bylaws and require the election of officers every year.

Tomokane appointed as acting scholarship administrator

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, the appointing authority for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, has appointed Jeff Tomokane as the acting scholarship administrator until a permanent individual is named to the position.

Board member Maggie Camacho disclosed this during yesterday's special meeting, adding that Tomokane temporarily assumed the position two weeks ago when William Torres' contract was not renewed by the board.

Torres—through a consultancy contract—served as the program administrator for about five years for \$40,000 annually. The board recently decided to not renew his contract in favor of hiring a permanent employee for the post.

The board yesterday said

the mayor's office is currently working on the recruitment process and is optimistic to get a qualified individual soon.

Tomokane described his transition to the new post as "smooth" but reported several issues that need the board's action and approval such as payment requests, inquiries and appeals from recipients, and concerns about the program's operation.

"From the last two weeks that I've been here, we received approximately 30 to 40 daily inquiries about the program and had received calls from some vendors [regarding the previous administration's transactions]," said Tomokane.

To accommodate the increasing number of inquiries, Tomokane recommended getting more telephone lines and securing one reliable copier machine to replace the office's

outdated equipment.

Because of "delays" and "lack of communication" with scholarship recipients, Tomokane also suggested an immediate upgrade of the office's software to minimize paper trail and human errors.

The board conceded yesterday that the outdated equipment is affecting the timely and fast production of documents for students.

"We will bring this issue to the SNILD [Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation]. We will ask funding for this purpose so we could also eliminate human errors. We have to be realistic here because of our limited operational budget," said Maggie Camacho, then acting chairperson yesterday.

The board plans to seek the Legislature's help in reinstating SHEFA's \$100,000 operational budget.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The board members of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance: sitting in the front row are Maggie Camacho and Josephine Sablan. Standing from left are vice chair Jose Leong Guerrero, Juan K. Tenorio, board chair Jose Mafnas, and acting administrator Jeff Tomokane.

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Kagman Elementary School (Stage Area)

DECEMBER 9TH

Thursday, 5 PM to 7 PM

Street Market, Garapan

DECEMBER 11TH

Saturday, 7 AM to 1 PM

Sabalu Market, Civic Center in Susupe
Kagman Elementary School (Stage Area)

** Rota and Tinian schedules are being finalized.*

The public can also visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

'Govt looking at adjusting salaries of DPS personnel'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

While the Fitial administration is still studying the recommendations of Management Analysis Inc.'s desk audit on the Department of Public Safety, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos acknowledged that compensation of police officers has been a major concern in the force.

"It's been a challenge for us. We've finished the first phase of this rebuilding and that is to hire an independent company to do an organizational review. The recommendations have come in and we're looking at that and then the next step is to go in and look for, resources permitting, make adjustments in the compensation of officers because that's one of the major issues in the grievances," he said.

Inos, who spoke to police officers during Tuesday's proclamation signing

designating December as Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, said that for the meantime DPS staff should continue to do their best in maintaining peace and order in the community and be as professional as they could be.

"Keep up the good work and I know you folks are out there to protect the community. Let's just all do our job I'm sure the community will feel good if they see you out there doing your job. We'll do our part from up here by trying to get sufficient resources to be able meet our obligations, including of course our obligation to our hardworking men and women in the force. That's our commitment and we will continue to do our best," he said.

Inos also observed that DPS staff seem unaffected by the recent termination of DPS deputy commissioner Ambrose Ogunmoro after his contract

wasn't renewed by police commissioner Santiago Tudela—or if they did, they didn't show it during Tuesday's event at the Governor's Office in Capital Hill.

"I think from this morning's visit they looked great, they want to go back to work, so there pretty upbeat. At least now, they have the direction that they want to do a good job. These are career people and we want to build into this core of technical professionals. We've sent this people to training. We've invested a lot of money, time, and effort to send them to training," he said.

The \$300,000 desk audit conducted by Virginia-based MAI revealed that certain divisions at DPS and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are overstaffed, incur lots of overtime costs, have overlapping and duplicative functions, and have posi-

tions that are unjustifiable such as a deputy secretary, a special advisor, or a media specialist, among other findings.

MAI provided a long list of recom-

mendations to improve the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

WAR

From Page 1

officials said Sharp did not even hear the concussions, though residents on other parts of the island panicked and ran back to the air raid shelters where they huddled earlier in the week as white smoke rose from North Korean territory.

Tensions have soared between the Koreas since the North's strike Tuesday destroyed large parts of this island, killing two civilians as well as two marines in a major escalation of their sporadic skirmishes along the sea border.

The attack—eight months after a torpedo sank a South Korean warship in nearby waters, killing 46 sailors—has also laid bare weaknesses in South Korea's defense 60 years after the Korean War. The incident forced South Korea's beleaguered defense minister to resign Thursday.

The heightened animosity between the Koreas is taking place as the North undergoes a delicate transition of power from leader Kim Jong Il to his young, inexperienced son Kim Jong Un, who is in his late 20s and is expected to eventually succeed his ailing father.

As Washington and Seoul pressed China to use its influence on Pyongyang to ease tensions amid concerns of all-out war, the U.S. prepared to send a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to South Korean waters for joint military drills starting Sunday.

The North, which sees the drills as a major military provocation, unleashed its anger over the planned exercises in a dispatch earlier Friday.

"The situation on the Korean peninsula is inching closer to the brink of war," the report in the North's official

Korean Central News Agency said.

A North Korean official boasted that Pyongyang's military "precisely aimed and hit the enemy artillery base" as punishment for South Korean military drills, and warned of another "shower of dreadful fire," KCNA said.

The regime does not recognize the maritime border drawn by the U.N. in 1953, and considers the waters around Yeonpyeong Island its territory.

Yeonpyeong Island, home to South Korean military bases as well as a civilian population of about 1,300 people, lies only 7 miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores and is not far from the spot where the Cheonan sank in an explosion in March.

Gen. Sharp called Tuesday's attack on Yeonpyeong a clear violation of an armistice signed in 1953 at the end of the three-year Korean War.

"We at United Nations Command will investigate this completely and call on North Korea to stop any future attacks," he said during a visit to the island Friday.

Washington keeps more than 28,000 troops in South Korea to protect the ally from aggression—a legacy of the Korean War that is a sore point for North Korea, which cites the U.S. presence as the main reason behind its need for nuclear weapons.

Dressed in a heavy camouflage jacket, army fatigues and a black beret, he walked down a heavily damaged street strewn with debris from buildings. Around him were charred bicycles and shattered bottles of soju, Korean rice liquor.

Hours later, after Sharp had returned to Seoul, AP photographers at an observation point on the northwest side of Yeonpyeong heard four explosions and saw at least one flash of light on the North Korean mainland.

SECOND PARTIAL CLOSURE OF COURT OPERATIONS

Judges, justices present, but only Inos holds hearings

Judges and justices were present in court yesterday but only associate judge Perry B. Inos held hearings, as the CNMI Judicial Council implemented its second partial closure of court operations.

Aside from the judges, those who reported for work at the Superior Court yesterday were two court staff, one secretary, one clerk, and one Family Court staff.

Three court marshals and three staff at the Office of the Adult Probation were also on duty.

At the CNMI Supreme Court, the three justices reported for work, along with their three law clerks and one clerk of court. The courts administrator came in the morning, but later left.

The cashier's office and the recorder's office were closed, while other offices were open.

Many customers who wanted to pay for police clearances, car registrations, and traffic clearances were surprised when

marshals informed them that the cashier's office was closed.

One customer, seen carrying a \$100 bill to pay for venue reservation at the Multi-Purpose Center, said the cashier's office should be always open, considering that the CNMI government needs revenue.

Some customers told *Saipan Tribune* the austerity measures not only confuse the public but also waste their time and gas expenses.

The Judiciary began implementing the partial closure of court operations every other Friday on Saipan last Nov. 12. Effective Jan. 1, 2011, court operations will be partially closed every Friday on Saipan.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja earlier stated that the government's budget for the current fiscal year is not enough to meet personnel and operations costs, hence the need to implement the Friday closures. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

TENSION

From Page 1

"Gov. Fitial is closely monitoring the situation between North and South Korea. At the moment, Gov. Fitial has received intel from Washington D.C. that the ongoing situation poses no immediate threat to the Marianas," he said.

At the time, Demapan said it would be premature to speculate that the conflict in the Korean peninsula would serve as basis to escalate the impending military buildup in the Marianas.

Nonetheless, he said the governor pointed to the ongoing conflict as a prime example of the CNMI's strategic geographic proximity in terms of the United States' efforts to enhance national security forces in the Pacific.

"Oftentimes we tend to lose sight of the importance of our location in the Pacific. This is the reason why our region has always been considered as an area of interest in the nation's military plans," said Fitial.

Senate President Paul Manglona echoed Fitial's comments, reiterating the CNMI and Guam's importance as a base to respond to military flashpoints not only in the Korean peninsula but in the South China Sea as well between China and Taiwan, one of the U.S.' staunchest allies.

"It goes to show that we are in a region where there could always be a possibility of danger. I think this one of the reasons why [we're very important] to the Defense Department. This situation in the two Koreas doesn't even have to happen. We really are strategically positioned. It shows our importance to the U.S.," he said.

The senator also extended his appreciation to U.S. servicemen deployed in South Korea and near the conflict.

"Especially during this Thanksgiving season we should be more thoughtful of our service members in the front-line and protecting our democracy. Keep them in mind and pray that they are out of harm's way," Manglona said.

Korean arrivals minimally affected

Hotel officials said that visitor arrivals from South Korea have so far not been adversely affected by the situation in the peninsula.

"Our regular package tour groups continue to come in unaffected, its normal process for us. Of course the sentiments of home are always on their mind, but as they arrive on the island and check in our resort, the ambiance featured [in our resort] changes their mindset, keeping them at a distance from what is truly happening so they may enjoy themselves and not worry," said Saipan World Resort sales and marketing director Tae Won Park.

He said only some government travelers and those who are serving in the military have cancelled their bookings.

"The bookings are slim to that of other packaged travelers and it has not affected operations and sales here at Saipan World Resort," said Park.

On a personal note, the World Resort marketing director is saddened by the crisis in his homeland.

"Since the two Korean countries have their showdown, we as Korean nationals are heartbroken for those caught in the crossfire. The atrocities of war only cause more hardship for everyone," he said.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan mirrored the minimal effect the tension in the two Koreas has had on World Resort's bookings.

"The only cancellations we've received are from a few guests who work in the government or military and are required to remain in Korea. They've attached letters with their cancellations," said sales and marketing director Kanae Quinn. "Otherwise, we have not received cancellations from 'regular' guests who don't serve in the military or government office."

Hyatt Regency Saipan sales executive James Choi said the Garapan landmark is also unaffected, bookings-wise.

"We are all fully aware of the escalating hostile situation between the two Koreas. However, we have not seen immediate cancellations or loss of inquiries from South Korea as of yet. In my personal opinion, there will not be any major effects of the recent hostile actions from North Korea. I don't expect to have cancellations. Perhaps a few, but nothing major," he said.

Tensions have soared between the Koreas since the North's strike Tuesday destroyed large parts of the Yeonpyeong Island, killing two civilians as well as two marines in a major escalation of their sporadic skirmishes along the sea border.

The attack—eight months after a torpedo sank a South Korean warship in nearby waters, killing 46 sailors—has also laid bare weaknesses in South Korea's defense 60 years after the Korean War. The incident forced South Korea's beleaguered defense minister to resign Thursday. (*with reports from AP*)

3 TEENS

From Page 1

the tiny boat was found.

On Wednesday, the tuna boat San Nikuna spotted a small dinghy bobbing in the open sea northeast of Fiji, with three people aboard waving frantically, said first mate Tai Fredricsen. They had drifted 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) from where they set out.

"We saw a small vessel, a little speedboat on our bows, and we knew it was a little weird," Fredricsen said.

The fishing boat pulled up alongside the smaller vessel and asked the teenagers if they needed any help, to which they readily replied that they did.

"All they could say was 'thank you very much for stopping,' Fredricsen told New Zealand's National Radio on Thursday by phone from the ship. "In a physical sense, they look very physically depleted, but mentally—very high."

The teens and their boat were hauled aboard the fishing trawler, which was on its way to Fiji Friday where it would deliver the trio into medical care.

Fredricsen said the boys were dehydrated, sunburned and very thin, but otherwise seemed well. The tuna boat's crew gave them small portions of fruit and fluids.

Fredricsen said the boys reported having just two coconuts with them when they set out. During their ordeal, they drank rainwater that collected in

the boat and ate fish they had caught. Once, they managed to grab a sea bird that landed on the boat and they devoured that, Fredricsen said.

The rescue came not a moment too soon: Fredricsen said they had begun to drink sea water because it hadn't rained in the past few nights.

He said the waters where the teenagers were spotted are very isolated and commercial vessels rarely pass through. The San Nikuna was there trying to shorten its return journey to New Zealand.

The boys come from the atoll of Atafu, one of three that comprises the tiny Tokelau island group where 1,500 people live.

The teens were able to telephone home from the San Nikuna, where one of them spoke to his grandmother and gave them the news that they were alive.

"It's a miracle, it's a miracle," said Tanu Filo, the father of Filo Filo. "The whole village, the whole village, they were so excited and cried and they sang songs and were hugging each other. Everybody was yelling and shouting the good news," he told Radio New Zealand International.

Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo, picture-perfect South Pacific islets, lie 300 miles (500 kilometers) north of Samoa, surrounded by 128 mostly uninhabited coconut palm-covered islets. The territory has a total land area of just 4.7 square miles (12.2 square kilometers).

CNMI Boy Scouts on the lookout for adult leaders

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The CNMI does not have enough adult volunteers who can train and guide boy scouts and cub scouts in becoming good citizens in the community, according to Boy Scouts district committee officials.

"We have the young boys but we don't have enough adult leaders," district chair Jess Muña said during the CNMI Boy Scouts committee meeting on Nov. 24.

Muña said an adult leader is any individual who has talents they can share with the young boys they will lead by example to become productive citizens.

According to Muña, adult leaders are not limited to male individuals. He said their boy scouts troop in Kagman have female adult leaders.

District commissioner Wayne Gillespie said there are two kinds of adult leaders in boy scouting: the unit level leaders such as the Boy Scout or Cub Scout masters and the

district level leaders who provide training needs for the unit level leaders.

"We need 20 adult volunteers for both levels," said Gillespie.

He said individuals who want to get involved with the Boy Scouts CNMI District do not need to have a scouting background. "We can train interested volunteers. It won't be a problem," he said.

Gillespie said the need for adult leaders is now critical since they already had to postpone some Boy Scouts activities.

"Adult leaders teach the scouts about ethics, honesty, abstinence from drugs and alcohol, and contribute to the community by becoming good citizens," he said.

Membership and relationship chair Mark Birmingham said a small community like the islands should take advantage of

the various programs that a fine organization such as Boy Scouts has to offer.

"Boy Scouts is tailor-made for a place like Saipan," he said.

According to Muña, an adult leader must be at least 21 years old, of good moral character, has no felony record, and alcohol- and drug-free.

Gillespie noted that they perform a background check on all adult leaders.

Those who are interested to become an adult volunteer and get involved with Boy Scouts may contact Cal Reyes at 285-9709, Gillespie at 483-0885, Birmingham at 236-2202 or Muña at 483-0442.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

CNMI Boy Scouts District officials during their committee meeting last Nov. 24 at the Scouting Office in Lower Navy Hill. From left, membership and relationship chair Mark Birmingham; district commissioner Wayne Gillespie; district chairman Jess Muna; and island director Cal Reyes.

Promo for 'Our Northern Islands' book

Our Northern Islands is available for 50 percent off the regular price for the next two weeks for shoppers who would like to give the book as a Christmas (or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa) gift. In order to receive the discount, the book must be purchased on Createspace.com (<https://www.createspace.com/3471268/>) and when prompted the following discount code must be entered: DPQ5DC28.

Our Northern Islands is a book about the first expedition to the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument and contains over 70 full color photos of the uninhabited islands north of Saipan. Written by recent high school graduate Dennis Chan, the book details the 10-day expedition taken to the newly created Mariana Trench Monument just months after its declaration by President George W. Bush on Jan. 6, 2009.

Chan joined the expedition after winning an essay contest sponsored by the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument, "Why I want to visit the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument."

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will support the educational programs of the Friends of the Monument and create more opportunities like the one given to Dennis. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Educational assistance program deadlines for Winter/Spring 2010

Application deadline for new or returning applicants: Dec. 15, 2010 (For those who submitted an application for fall term 2010, they do not have to reapply for Winter/Spring term)

Deadline for supporting documents: Feb. 28, 2011

For more information call 664-4750/52 or visit www.cn-mischoolship.com. (PR)

'Don't Be a Turkey' walk/run today

Shed the excess weight and support the 10th Annual "Don't Be a Turkey, Walk!" 5k/10k Walk or Run today, Nov. 27. Get a pledge or donation of \$10 and you will get the trademark "Don't be a Turkey, Walk! T-Shirt." Refreshments will also be provided. All proceeds will go back to the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition to help aid its goals in providing diabetes screening, education and awareness.

The Flu W.A.T.C.H. program will be providing flu vaccines to all interested individuals/walkers starting at the age of 9 and up.

For more information, contact me Trina Sablan at the CNMI Division of Public Health at (670) 664-4032 or Diane Villagomez at Ayuda Network 234-7469. (PR)

CCA board to convene on Monday, Nov. 29

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening its next monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, at the Mai Restaurant, Fiesta Resort & Spa,

starting at 12pm.

The agenda will include updates on the CCA's tobacco education exhibits at the Diabetes Health Forum and the Health & Wellness Fair; updates on the CCA's efforts to develop and implement a breast and cervical cancer outreach training program through funding from the Pacific Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities; discussion of the CCA's 2011 budget; discussion of a proposed partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority to facilitate a visit to the CNMI from a Japanese breast cancer awareness organization; and reports from the program manager and board committees on Early Detection/Prevention, Fundraising, and Policy.

All CCA board meetings are open to the public. For more information call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

Cancer survivor support meeting on Nov. 30

All cancer survivors are invited to the next survivor support meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm.

This month's survivor support meeting will feature Part II of a mini-workshop on "The Joy of Seeing, Taking, and Sharing Photographs," by professional photographer Bryan Jones. Part I of the mini-workshop was held at last month's survivor support meeting, and included a discussion of how photography can calm the mind, body, and spirit, and help survivors give expression to their cancer journey. Part II on Nov. 30 will include

a presentation of photographs submitted by survivors. The presentation will be followed by a survivors-only discussion.

In addition, the Department of Public Health will be offering free flu shots for all interested participants.

For more information, or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (CCA)

Trivia Tuesday at Wild Bill's on Nov. 30

Don't miss Trivia Tuesday night at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill on Nov. 30, 2010, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm! Show your smarts and have a great time for a great cause. The Commonwealth Cancer Association will be selling raffle tickets for \$1 apiece, and raffling off terrific prizes including gift certificates for healthy lunches at Chambre, Fiеста Resort & Spa, coupons for delicious fat-free frozen yogurt from Scoops, gift certificates from Bestseller Bookstore, yoga mats, umbrellas, and first aid kits from TakeCare, and more. All raffle proceeds will benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Admission to Trivia Tuesdays is free, and there will be food and drink specials for all to enjoy. For information about Trivia Tuesdays, call Quizmaster Daniel Stafford at 483-8979 or email danielstafford10@gmail.com. For information about the Commonwealth Cancer Association, call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

Judge orders arrest of probationer

The Superior Court has ordered the arrest of a probationer who did not appear at a hearing intended to determine whether he has complied with all the terms and conditions of his probation.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Jack Ngiraibuuch after the defendant failed to appear at a review hearing on Monday.

Naraja granted the government's request to set a \$400 cash bail for the 34-year-old Ngiraibuuch.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorring appeared for the

government at the hearing.

In a written order issued Tuesday, the presiding judge directed Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela or any other officers to arrest Ngiraibuuch and immediately bring him to court.

Ngiraibuuch pleaded guilty to theft by deception for buying items using a stolen check in the amount of \$500 at Ming Li Store on June 13, 2008.

In 2009, the court sentenced him to 10 days in prison. On Feb. 9, 2009, he was placed on probation.

According to the Probation

Office, Ngiraibuuch failed to pay the balance of \$300 out of the \$500 restitution he was required to pay the store.

The defendant also failed to pay the remaining balance of his \$80 probation fee.

Ngiraibuuch's probation was extended to Feb. 28, 2011. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHU LI HONG)
Petitioner,) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 10-0499
vs.)
) SUMMON FOR
SIMON LUCIANO) PUBLICATION
Respondent.)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2082 box 10002, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
 1. August 05, 2010
 2. September 24, 2010
 3. September 29, 2010
 4. October 03, 2010
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Report of the Chairman
 1. Communication
 - B. Report of the Administrator/Deputy Administrator
 1. Communication
 2. Status of Investment
 3. Accounting Report
 - a) NMI Retirement Fund
 - b) GHLTF
 - c) WCC
 4. Member Home Loan Program
 5. Other Administrative Status/Updates
 6. Summary of Action Items
 - C. Reports of the Committees
 1. Operations, Personnel & Review
 2. Finance & Investment
 3. Special
 - D. Report of the Internal Auditor
- IV. LEGAL MATTERS
 - A. Reports of the Legal Counsels and Administrative Hearing Officer
 1. Report of the Board Counsel
 2. Report of the Hearing Officer
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. NMIRF Case No. 10-001
 - B. NMIRF Case No. 10-002
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. NMIRF Case No. 10-008
 - B. NMIRF Case No. 10-009
 - C. Effects of Budget Act
 - D. Personnel Needs
 - E. Water Pump System RFP
 - F. Article III, Section 20(b) 60 Day Double Dipping
 - G. Investment Allocation
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Out of wedlock, out of luck?

The Constitution makes clear that a child born in the United States is a citizen of the United States. But it is silent on the subject of children born to Americans outside the country. This month, the Supreme Court heard arguments about a tiny subset of this group—children born to an American parent not only out of the country but also out of wedlock—and the conditions under which they may become citizens.

The problem facing the court is that existing law blatantly discriminates against men, making it substantially more difficult for unmarried fathers to pass along their citizenship to children born abroad than it is for unmarried mothers to do so. But there's no reason—other than outdated gender stereotypes—for an American mother to have stronger rights than an American father. The court should strike down this unfair law.

Ruben Flores-Villar, born out of wedlock in Mexico but raised in San Diego by his American father, faced deportation after entering the United States illegally. He insisted that he couldn't be deported because he was a U.S. citizen. But federal law at the time of his birth granted citizenship to foreign-born, out-of-wedlock children of male U.S. citizens only if the father had resided in the United States for 10 years before the child's birth, including five years after the father's 14th birthday—a requirement Flores-Villars' father failed to satisfy.

By contrast, a female U.S. citizen hoping to pass along citizenship to an out-of-wedlock child born abroad needed only to have lived in the United States continuously for one year any time before the child's birth. (The law has been modified but still discriminates against unwed fathers.) This disparity is a relic of a time when it was assumed that mothers always had a closer connection than fathers to their children.

The Obama administration argued to the Supreme Court in favor of preferential treatment for unwed mothers, saying it serves the purpose of reducing the number of "stateless" children because other countries would be unlikely to grant citizenship to out-of-wedlock children. But the same argument supports making it easier for unwed fathers to be able to pass along citizenship to their children.

Some justices seemed inclined to uphold the law because of Congress' traditional discretion over matters of immigration and naturalization. But neither the law involved in Flores-Villar's case nor the current version can be reconciled with the constitutional guarantee of "equal protection of the laws." The court should rule that unwed mothers and unwed fathers be treated identically. Then Congress should go further and abolish all distinctions in the law, treating children born out of wedlock and children of married couples the same.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



Scanner whiners need some perspective

The feds are losing control of the debate over the Transportation Security Administration's new full-body scanners and enhanced pat-down techniques. A combination of well-intentioned privacy concerns and Internet lore could spell doom for the public acceptance of the new measures.

It's not so complicated. Upon reaching an airport's security area, travelers are asked to undergo a full-body scan by an Advanced Imaging Technology scanner. If they don't want the scan, they can opt for a pat-down by a TSA official. Simple, and yet there are so many rumors about this procedure that there's a need to separate fact from fiction.

Last week, multiple callers to my radio program expressed the concern that Muslims dressed in hijabs or other traditional clothing can opt out of both the scan and the pat-down. While it's true that some Muslim-American groups in February said the scanners violate Islam's sense of modesty and should be avoided, those groups advised their supporters to undergo the pat-downs.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations recently issued a travel advisory informing Muslims that if they object to the scanners, they can request a private pat-down administered by a security official of the same sex—the exact same right every American has regardless of ethnicity or creed.

When I interviewed TSA chief John Pistole about the supposed exception, his answer was unequivocal: "Everybody goes through the same process."

Here's another story making the rounds: The full-body scanners will give you cancer. I find it ironic that we hold cell phones to our ears for hours a day, vegetate in front of computer screens, and cook our food in microwaves, and yet some worry about a body scan that takes seconds on the rare occasions when most of us fly.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano wrote last week that the machines had been deemed safe by the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and by researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

It's not that the machines don't emit radiation. By all accounts, they do. But as Pistole reiterated in my conversation with him, those organizations had indeed assessed the devices and "all found that the radiation from these machines are well within the acceptable safety limits." That does not dissuade James Babb, who is co-founder of the group We Won't Fly, who told me in an interview that the same Johns Hopkins report asserted that because so many millions of Americans would be scanned, somebody was bound to get cancer as a result.

Pistole's response: "There have been other people who have their assessment of the study who have come up with this idea that given the millions of air hours people are flying, there is a possibility out there at some point that somebody may—so many 'mays' built in here—may have some additional exposure concerns."

Bottom line: Walking through the scanners means encountering a minuscule amount of radiation.

Here's another concern: The scanners and pat-downs are a blatant invasion of privacy. A thirtysomething Internet sensation from California

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia InquirerMichael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.

has been whining about his "junk," creating the impression that he'd been asked to turn his head and cough. This is pure kvetching.

Here's the reality: The TSA official viewing the scanned body images does so in a walled-off location in which cameras of any kind are prohibited. That official does not interact with fliers. The official who does deal with the fliers does not see the images. Sensitive areas of the images are blurred.

That hasn't stopped the rumor that outlines of one's genitals could end up on somebody's Facebook page. In other words, that scanner images could be saved and distributed. To this Pistole said: "The machines that we have deployed at airports are deployed in a way that has all those capabilities rendered inoperable. So we don't have the opportunity to either store, transmit, do anything with those images. They are deleted as soon as the person is cleared."

And remember, travelers who don't want to be scanned can opt for the pat-down. They can request that the procedure take place in a private area—in front of a chosen travel companion.

I asked Pistole just how invasive a well-performed pat-down should be. "The pat-down needs to be thorough enough to detect well-designed, well-concealed, nonmetallic, especially explosive, devices such as we saw ... last Christmas," he said.

Have we really reached a point where that is objectionable?

The system isn't perfect. Most alarming is the fact that the full-body scans only operate skin-deep. Meaning that if a terrorist were perverse enough to hide explosives in a body cavity, the scanner wouldn't detect it. (To address that, I continue to believe we should consider the commonalities of those seeking to kill Americans—the dreaded p-word, profiling.) While this issue is disturbing, it also makes cries of privacy violation less credible. It's doubtful that those who complain most about the scanners would approve making them even more invasive.

Indeed, absent from the security whining is any credible alternative. So, too, is acknowledgement of the real reason the TSA must scan and pat each person boarding a plane: There are terrorists out there who want to strike America via its air-travel system.

The fact is, these enhanced security measures are a small price to pay for securing that system. It's true that travelers have a right to privacy, but that right shouldn't outweigh my right to fly with my family knowing we're secure because each of our fellow passengers has been properly screened.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US presence in Afghanistan as long as Soviet slog

By **PATRICK QUINN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Soviet Union couldn't win in Afghanistan, and now the United States is about to have something in common with that futile campaign: nine years, 50 days.

On Friday, the U.S.-led coalition will have been fighting in this South Asian country for as long as the Soviets did in their humbling attempt to build up a socialist state. The two invasions had different goals—and dramatically different body counts—but whether they have significantly different outcomes remains to be seen.

What started out as a quick war on Oct. 7, 2001, by the U.S. and its allies to wipe out al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and the Taliban has instead turned into a long and slogging campaign. Now about 100,000 NATO troops are fighting a burgeoning insurgency while trying to support and cultivate a nascent democracy.

A Pentagon-led assessment released earlier this week described the progress made since the United States injected 30,000 more troops into Afghanistan earlier this year as fragile.

The top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus, has said NATO's core objective is to ensure that Afghanistan "is never again a sanctuary to al-Qaida or other transnational extremists that it was prior to 9/11."

He said the only way to achieve that goal is "to help Afghanistan develop the ability to secure and govern itself. Now not to the levels of Switzerland in 10 years or less, but to a level that is good enough for Afghanistan."

To reach that, there is an ongoing effort to get the Taliban to the negotiating table. President Hamid Karzai has set up a committee to try to make peace, and the military hopes its campaign will help force the insurgents to seek a deal.

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, its stated goal was to transform Afghanistan into a modern

socialist state. The Soviets sought to prop up a communist regime that was facing a popular uprising, but left largely defeated on Feb. 15, 1989.

In 1992, the pro-Moscow government of Mohammad Najibullah collapsed and U.S.-backed rebels took power. The Taliban eventually seized Kabul after a violent civil war that killed thousands more. It ruled with a strict interpretation of Islamic law until it was ousted by the U.S.-led invasion.

Nader Nadery, an Afghan analyst who has studied the Soviet and U.S. invasions, said "the time may be the same" for the two conflicts, "but conditions are not similar."

More than a million civilians died as Soviet forces propping up the government of Babrak Karmal waged a massive war against anti-communist mujahedeen forces.

"There was indiscriminate mass bombardment of villages for the eviction of mujahedeen," Nadery said. "Civilian casualties are not at all comparable."

Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank and Afghanistan expert, said NATO forces have killed fewer than 10,000 civilians and a comparable number of insurgents.

The allied military presence has also been far smaller and more targeted. Even now, nearly all operations are restricted to the south and east of the country where the insurgency is most active. O'Hanlon points out that at the height of the resistance, there were 250,000 mujahedeen representing all Afghan ethnic groups fighting the Soviets, while "the current insurgency is perhaps one-eighth as large and is only Pashtun."

"We do have big problems. But there is no comparison between this war and what the Soviets wrought," he said.

"The Soviet war set Afghanistan back dramatically from what had been a weak but functioning state. NATO has, by contrast, helped Afghanistan to a 10 percent annual economic growth rate, 7 million kids are now in school, and most people have access to basic health care within a two-hour walk," O'Hanlon said.

Greyhounds: Racing to the grave

By **JENNIFER O'CONNOR**
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Officials responding to a complaint about a putrid smell at Florida's Ebro Greyhound Park recently found the bodies of 37 dead and decomposing dogs who had apparently starved to death — as well as five more dogs who were near death. Some of the dogs had duct tape wrapped around their necks. It appears that the owner had intentionally left the greyhounds to die when the racing season ended.

The worst part of this story is that it's not an isolated incident.

Greyhounds used in the racing industry live in misery and frequently die in misery. The clock starts ticking the day a greyhound is born. Countless greyhounds are killed each year when breeders decide that the dogs won't be fast enough to win races. Dogs have been shot, bludgeoned or simply dumped to fend for themselves. Those who make the first cut live on borrowed time: Their lives are secure only as long as they make money for their owners.

A few years ago, the bodies of 10,000 greyhounds were uncovered in a U.K. field. The "slow" but otherwise healthy dogs had been killed with a bolt gun.

After 3,000 dead greyhounds were found in a backyard pit on

his property, a security guard at a Florida track admitted that he had made money for 40 years by shooting injured or aging dogs.

And at least 140 greyhounds were presumed dead after they disappeared while in the custody of a man who had been paid to haul "losers" to greyhound adoption groups. The dogs were never accounted for and were believed to have been left in the Arizona desert.

Greyhounds are sociable dogs who enjoy lounging on the couch and who crave the love and attention of a family, but when used in racing, they spend the vast majority of their lives in cramped cages and are usually kept muzzled at all times. Although they are extremely sensitive to temperature because of their lack of body fat and their thin coats, greyhounds are forced to race in extreme conditions — ranging from subzero temperatures to sweltering heat. Trainers have been found doping greyhounds with cocaine and other drugs to mask injuries or to get them to run faster.

Greyhounds face many risks from which they have no defense. An employee at Connecticut's Shoreline Star track used fishing line to tie a dog's tail to the starting shoot before a race as a "joke." The dog's tail was ripped off when he began running. Many greyhounds have died from heat prostration during trans-

The 'Islamish invasion' has already started

By **JAMES WERRELL**
(C) 2010, ROCK HILL (S.C.) HERALD

It's time to wipe the sleep from your eyes, drink some coffee and do some light stretching exercises. It's time to WAKE UP, America!

We are in danger of being infiltrated by people who do not share our traditional American values, who do not appreciate all that this country has to offer and who would undermine our Constitution. In short, these people are not like us.

They hold themselves apart from normal American society. They shun technology and the gifts of Western culture.

Unlike normal American women who prance around in bikinis, flash strangers who give them plastic beads and post their drunken escapades on Facebook, these women cover themselves from head to toe in plain dresses. And their bearded husbands approve of this!

They don't use the public school system, preferring their own religious schools. They are permitted to marry only those of the same religion or risk being excommunicated by fellow members.

They refuse to serve in the U.S. military. Among themselves, they communicate using a foreign dialect that most Americans

can't understand.

As most probably have ascertained by now, I'm talking about the Amish—the Pennsylvania Dutch, whose very name hints at their dual allegiance. Are they Pennsylvanians or are they Dutch?

While the Amish are mostly concentrated in Pennsylvania, they also have spread to communities in Indiana, Missouri, Iowa and even southwest Minnesota. And their numbers are increasing.

When disputes occur among the Amish, they don't like to call the cops like other Americans. They settle problems themselves! They don't even like to sue people!

That is not the American way. How long can it be before we have Amish law and Amish courts operating right alongside of our American constitutional system? First, places like Lancaster, Pa., will go Amish, and then it will start to spread—to Indiana, Ohio and big chunks of the Midwest. Where will it end?

Soon, the American heartland will be under the thumb of the Amish. America's men will be growing beards, walking around in overalls, straw hats and clunky black shoes. Women will be draped in long, plain dresses, aprons and bonnets, even in the summer!

Americans will start calling each other "thee" and "thou," even

He also points out that although Karzai was hand-picked by the United States after the invasion "he has since been elected twice by his own people."

The United States and its allies, however, have made strategic mistakes, including taking their eyes off Afghanistan and shifting their attention to the war in Iraq. In those crucial years, the Taliban and their allies surged back and took control of many parts of the Afghan countryside and some regions in the south—especially parts of Kandahar and Helmand.

Wadir Safi, a professor at Kabul University who served as civil aviation minister under the Najibullah government, said risks surround the U.S. effort because "the Americans never reached the goal for which they came."

"If they don't change their policy, if they don't reach their goals, if they don't reach agreement with the armed opposition and with the government, then it is not a far time that the Afghan people will be fed up with the presence of these foreign forces," Safi said.

The United States has pledged that its commitment to Afghanistan will run past the 2014 date when NATO forces are supposed to transition to a noncombat role.

A Russian analyst said the Soviet Union tried to do something similar when it left Afghanistan. It backed Najibullah with money and weapons, and left behind a trained and heavily armed Afghan military. But it all crumbled and the mujahedeen took over Kabul in 1992. Najibullah stayed in the city's U.N. compound until Kabul fell to the Taliban in 1996, and he was hung from the main square.

"The Soviet Union tried to leave its protege alone to run the country, but that ended in the Taliban victory," said Alexander Kononov, the head of the Moscow-based Institute of Strategic Assessment, an independent think-tank.

"The U.S. now wants to create a self-sufficient structure behind backed by some support forces," he said. "It remains to be seen how successful it could be in Afghanistan."

port from one racetrack to another. Haulers transport dozens of greyhounds in trucks that can be poorly ventilated and stifling, cramming two or three dogs in each crate. Countless dogs have also perished in kennel fires.

Sickness and injuries — including broken legs, heatstroke and heart attacks — claim the lives of many dogs. During one three-year span, almost 500 greyhounds were seriously injured while racing on Massachusetts tracks alone.

All over the world, an increasingly informed public is refusing to support an industry that treats greyhounds like garbage. Since 2001, 25 greyhound tracks have closed in the U.S. because of declining attendance. In 2010, greyhound racing was banned in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and the U.S. territory of Guam. Barbados, Haiti and Indonesia have all shuttered their once-active tracks.

People who care about dogs should continue to stay away from tracks and betting parlors. If they do, this ruthless industry will eventually be relegated to the history books once and for all.

Jennifer O'Connor is a research specialist with the PETA Foundation, 501 Front Street, Norfolk, Va. 23510; www.PETA.org. Information about PETA's funding may be found at www.peta.org/about/numbers.asp.

though we don't know the difference between those two words.

The Amish claim to be pacifists. They would love to see total disarmament in this country.

Well, once we are disarmed, then what? The perfect transport for one of those dirty bombs would be a little horse and buggy—parked right in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall, where our Founding Fathers signed the Constitution that allows us to openly discriminate against foreigners.

What we need, America, is a constitutional amendment banning Amish law in this country. What? You say that's unnecessary?

Well, you might be singing a different tune when electricity is illegal, zippers are banned and your fastest mode of transportation is one horsepower!

America, the Amish threat is real. These people aren't like us.

Consider what happens when you add just three little letters to their name: "Islamish."






Coincidence? I think not!

James Werrell is the opinion page editor for the Rock Hill Herald. He can be reached by e-mail at jwerrell@heraldonline.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼74

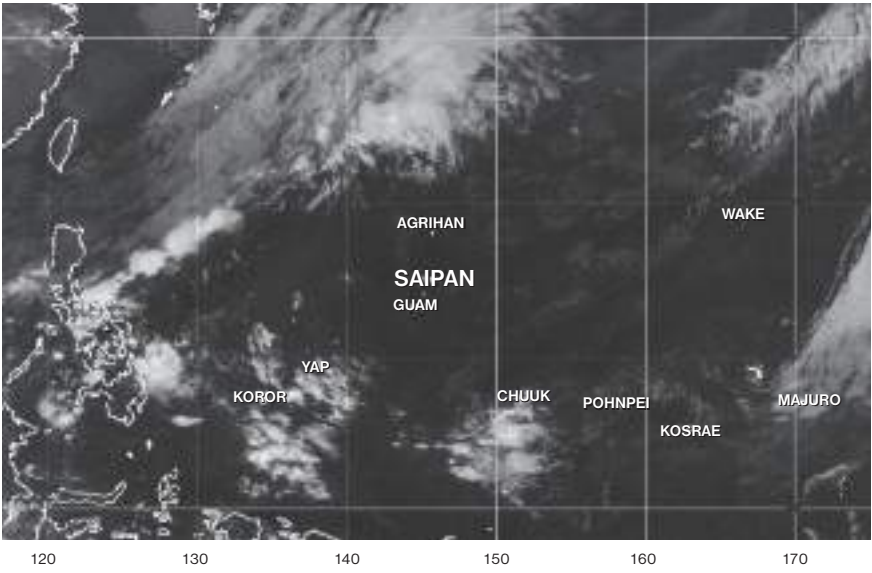
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71 ▼61
Beijing	Windy	▲43 ▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▼67
Honolulu	Windy	▲83 ▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▼28
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲67 ▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼79
Melbourne	Rain	▲70 ▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼66
New York	Showers	▲53 ▼32
Osaka	Sunny	▲56 ▼49
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▼28
Pusan	Windy	▲62 ▼38
Rome	Rain	▲57 ▼40
Salem	Rain	▲46 ▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲46 ▼26
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼48
Washington, DC	Showers	▲55 ▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
12:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
6:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
10:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from near Minami Torishima through 25N150E to a low pressure system located at 22N135E then continues as a cold front to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of this feature including Iwo To Island. A surface trough runs northward from 1N138E to 15N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of the trough west and northwest of Koror between 6N and 12N from 130E to 133E. Another surface trough reaches northward from 1N158E to 6N156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near the trough just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei in an area bounded by a line from 6N148E to 7N160E to 5N160E to 4N156E to 1N154E back to 6N148E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from west and south of Kwajalein to Majuro and northeastward to near the date line within 75 miles of a line from 10N164E to 7N167E to 7N171E to 10N176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:56 PM	10:59 AM
Sunday	11:53 PM	11:44 AM
Monday		12:27 PM
Tuesday	12:49 AM	1:10 PM
Wednesday	1:45 AM	1:53 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM+Palau				via ICN
			1, 2, 4, 7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM+Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	via GUM				
			via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM+Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM+Palau				
			1, 2, 4, 6, 7	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	via GUM				via GUM
			2, 4, 6, 7	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7				via GUM
			via GUM	C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 	Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm	Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143	Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)
	Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm	San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131	Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158
	Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273	Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm	Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am
	Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568	PROTESTANT 	Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm
	Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007	Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm	Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday	Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540	Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm	First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass	Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org	Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)	Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm	Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions	Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm	Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991	Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680	Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620	Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English	Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)	Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm	Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.			

Business

THANKSGIVING SALES bring shoppers, grumbles

NEW YORK (AP)—Not all Americans tucked into turkey with their families on Thanksgiving. Some were out shopping, hitting sales ahead of the crowds expected Friday.

After a year of cautious spending and worry over an uncertain economy and high unemployment, more stores this year extended hours into Thanksgiving Day, a day when stores are traditionally closed.

Many grumble about the relentless march of commercialism creeping into the holiday. But at least some shoppers took the bait.

While crowds appeared relatively light compared with the weekend ahead, the extended hours drew in overseas visitors, those who have to work Friday and some who couldn't resist a good deal.

Sears, Kmart and some Sports Authority, Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic stores were among those open Thursday.

At an Old Navy in Lutherville, Md., Brenda Tarver, 65, a retired postal employee from Baltimore, was dragged out of the house by her daughters, but was finding good deals on clothing.

"They've got good prices and a variety of items. A lot of things are 50 percent off," she said.

Willy Gerelbest, 45, a counselor from Brooklyn, was shopping at Kmart in New York for sneakers on sale for \$9.99. "I saw the advertising and just

wanted to check it out," he said.

"Tomorrow I have to work." David Friedman, president of marketing for Sears Holdings Corp. said the decision to open 7 a.m.-noon on Thanksgiving Day stemmed from positive response to a similar "early Black Friday" sale in November, as well as success with Kmart, which Sears also owns and has been open on Thanksgiving for 19 years.

Workers will earn holiday pay and still be home in time for a Thanksgiving meal, Friedman said.

At the Sears store at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., the largest U.S. shopping and entertainment complex, sales were fueled by a charity walk at the mall.

The walk—and a good sale—drew Helen Schultz, of White Bear Lake, Minn. She bought a 19-inch RCA LCD HDTV for \$129.99, saving \$70. But she said wouldn't have bought it Thursday if she hadn't been there for the charity walk.

"I don't think shopping should be done on Thanksgiving," Schultz said. "But they need to make money."

Toys R Us CEO Jerry Storch said the company decided to open at 10 p.m. Thanksgiving Day because reaction was so positive to the stores' midnight opening last year. Before that, stores opened at 5 a.m. on Friday. He expects brisk sales of hot toys like Santa-majig, a green and red singing doll.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Private equity group to buy Del Monte for \$4B
NEW YORK (AP)—Del Monte Foods Co. on Thursday agreed to be bought for \$4 billion in cash by a group of investors that includes its former owner in what would be the biggest private equity deal of the year. An investor group led by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.—which briefly owned Del Monte—Vestar Capital Partners and Center-view Partners agreed to buy the food maker for \$19 per share. They will also assume \$1.3 billion in debt. Del Monte, based in San Francisco, is the owner of several well-known pet-food brands, including Kibbles 'n Bits, Meow Mix and Milk-Bone. It also has food brands under the Del Monte, Contadina, College Inn and S&W names.

Irish opposition vows to upend austerity plan
DUBLIN (AP)—Opposition leaders vowed Thursday to rewrite Ireland's harsh four-year austerity plan if, as expected, they oust Prime Minister Brian Cowen in early elections next year. European Union and International Monetary Fund experts negotiating an estimated euro85 billion (\$115 billion) bailout for Ireland have demanded that the country make binding commitments to slash its deficit—now the worst in Europe—as a condition of any aid. To that end, Ireland unveiled Wednesday a plan to cut euro15 billion (\$20 billion) from its deficits through 2014, starting with a 2011 budget, which the government will present to parliament on Dec. 7.

France to hunt again for vanished Rio-Paris flight
PARIS (AP)—The French government said Thursday it will conduct a fourth search for the flight recorders of an Air France jetliner that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris 18 months ago. All 228 people aboard Flight 447 died, and families of some victims have demanded that France not give up the hunt for the flight recorders—and answers about what caused the plane to plunge into the ocean during a large thunderstorm on June 1, 2009. Transport Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet and Junior Transport Minister Thierry Mariani said a fourth search would get under way in February. Their statement said the "best equipment currently available" will be used.

Nation

Judge has many options in sentencing ex-Rep. DeLay

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay argued throughout his trial that the deck was stacked against him by a politically motivated prosecutor and a jury from the most Democratic city in one of the most Republican states.

But following DeLay's conviction Wednesday on money laundering and conspiracy charges, some legal experts say the edge may now shift to the Republican who represented a conservative Houston suburb for 22 years.

Before DeLay's inevitable appeal, which his lawyers predict will be a far friendlier process than his trial, he faces sentencing next month from Senior Judge Pat Priest. While technically the money laundering charge carries a punishment of up to life in prison, the judge has wide latitude and could end up just giving him probation.

"It is absolutely impossible he would get anywhere near life," said Philip Hilder, a Houston criminal defense attorney and former federal prosecutor. "It would be a period of a few years, if he gets prison."

Barry Pollack, a Washington-



DeLay

based lawyer who represents clients in white-collar and government corruption cases, said the judge may not feel the need to throw the book at DeLay, figuring the conviction itself is severe punishment for someone who once ascended to the No. 2 post in the House of Representatives.

For example, as a convicted felon, DeLay won't be able to run again for public office or even be able to cast a vote until he completes his sentence.

"I think in a lot of cases a judge wants to make an example, but I don't see that happening here," Pollack said.

Prosecutors accused DeLay of conspiring with two associates to use his Texas-based political action committee to send \$190,000 in corporate money to an arm of the Washington-based Republican National Committee. The RNC then sent the same amount to seven Texas statehouse candidates. Under Texas law, corporate money can't go directly to political campaigns.

The money helped Republicans take control of the Texas House in 2002, and once there, they were able to push through a DeLay-engineered congressional redistricting plan that

sent more Texas Republicans to Congress in 2004, strengthening DeLay's political power.

While the string of alleged events may have been difficult for jurors to follow, outside legal observers said prosecutors were able to prove that DeLay had an undeniable motive for breaking the law.

Phillip Turner, a Chicago attorney who focused on criminal tax and public corruption cases as a federal prosecutor in the 1980s, said jurors always want clear evidence that the defendant stood to personally gain through his alleged misdeeds.

Turner contrasts the DeLay case with the federal corruption trial of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who was convicted only on a lesser charge of lying to the FBI, with the jury deadlocking on 23 other charges—including the most serious ones.

Although prosecutors argued Blagojevich wanted to enrich himself by trying to sell the Senate seat that once belonged to President Barack Obama, Turner said a "corrupt motive" was tougher to prove in that case. Blagojevich didn't seem to receive any reward, either in money or power, and it was unclear whether he ever really intended to, Turner said.

Prosecutor making mark with Wall Street crackdown

NEW YORK (AP)—Preet Bharara was a newly appointed U.S. attorney when he added his own twist to a signature Hollywood line to put Wall Street on notice.

"Sometimes," he said in touting a massive securities case, "greed is not good."

A year later, Bharara hasn't let up in his pursuit of real-life Gordon Gekkos.

Making broad use of wiretaps—routine in mob and drug cases, but groundbreaking in white-collar probes—the Manhattan prosecutor has widened an investigation of hedge funds and other financial institutions suspected of insider trading. The latest arrest came Wednesday, the same day a judge rejected a defense challenge to the wiretap tactic.

Amid the crackdown, the 42-year-old Bharara has displayed a trademark

tenacity tempered by humility—a combination that's won admirers inside and outside the nation's largest U.S. attorney's office.

"I think he really does appreciate the power of the office and he's not going to waste it," said Eric Snyder, who has worked at a Washington law firm since leaving the New York office in June. "There's outrage out there. He represents the people and he's going to react to what people are outraged by."

Born in Ferozepur, India, Bharara immigrated with his parents to the United States in 1970 as an infant. He spent his childhood in Monmouth County, N.J., and came away a fan of local hero Bruce Springsteen.

He graduated from Harvard in 1990



Bharara

and Columbia Law School in 1993, and worked in private practice until 2000, when he became an assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan. Five years later, he became U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer's chief counsel, helping to lead the investigation into the firings of nine U.S. attorneys under President George W. Bush.

Bill Burck, a former federal prosecutor himself in Manhattan who worked as Bush's deputy White House counsel while Bharara was investigating the firings of prosecutors, said Bharara

"comes across as extremely professional and apolitical. He's viewed by Republicans as a very fair-minded guy who is not motivated by partisanship."

Burck said Bharara's likability stems partly from his sharp wit.



Conner May, 13, of Salt Lake City, catches some air while sledding Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010, at Sugarhouse Park in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Storms, not airport security, slow holiday travel

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—A planned boycott of airport security scanners was a bust, but holiday travelers in the western U.S. had to contend with a chaotic mix of snow, sleet and ice.

The powerful storm system closed roads and delayed flights from Anchorage to Salt Lake City, and promised to bring messy wintery weather to much of the Dakotas on Thanksgiving Day. Freezing rain glazed roads across the Midwest, and at least three traffic deaths in Iowa were blamed on the weather.

But the cascading delays and monumental lines that many feared would result at airports from the so-called National Opt-Out Day didn't materialize Wednesday, one of the busiest travel days of the year.

The loosely organized Internet campaign encouraged travelers to protest new security screening by boycotting body scanners that can see through people's clothing and insisting on the more time consuming pat-downs. But few passengers seemed to heed the call.

"It was a day at the beach, a box of chocolates," Greg Hancock, 61, said after going through a body scanner Wednesday at the Phoenix airport.

He was sent through the scanner after a golf ball marker set off the metal detector.

His wife, Marti Hancock, 58, said that ever since she was in the air on Sept. 11, 2001, and feared there was a bomb on her plane, she has been fully supportive of stringent security: "If that's what you have to do to keep us safe, that's what you have to do."

Some protesters showed up, including one man seen walking around the Salt Lake City airport in a skimpy, Speedo-style bathing suit. At other airports, they carried signs denouncing the Transportation Security Administration's screening methods as unnecessarily intrusive and embarrassing.

By most accounts, though, the lines moved smoothly, and there was no more or less congestion at major U.S. airports than in previous years on the day before Thanksgiving.

"I would go so far as to say that National Opt-Out Day was a big bust," said Genevieve Shaw Brown, a spokeswoman for the travel company Travelocity, which had staff at 12 of the nation's largest airports watching for problems.



ACROSS THE NATION

AG: 2 murder charges for honeymoon death suspect

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Alabama man who served prison time in Australia for his wife's drowning death during their honeymoon returned Thursday to the U.S., where he faces murder charges that could carry a much stiffer punishment. Gabe Watson, 33, arrived in Los Angeles on Thursday morning after he was deported on a commercial flight from Melbourne, Australia. Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said Watson was accompanied by two Immigration Department staff and three Queensland state police officers. Watson cleared customs within an hour and was taken away in handcuffs. He was booked at a local police substation after his arrival, said Los Angeles police Lt. Aaron McCraney. Watson will likely make a court appearance in Los Angeles before being

sent back to Alabama.

Vt. cops: Man shoots pal dead in bed in awry prank

MANCHESTER, Vt. (AP)—Police say a Vermont man who believed he was holding an air gun shot his sleeping friend dead in bed with a .22-caliber rifle. Manchester police told WCAX-TV that the two friends were staying at another friend's home Thursday. Police say 23-year-old Nicholas Bell of Manchester was hoping to play a prank on his friend and wake him up with an air gun. But authorities say Bell ended up firing a shot from a loaded rifle into the chest of 24-year-old Jeffrey Charbonneau of Manchester, and he died. Bell was arrested on a manslaughter charge and is being held at the Rutland jail. Jail officials did not know if he had an attorney.

Sophisticated drug tunnel found in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—U.S. authorities have discovered a sophisticated tunnel used to smuggle drugs between Mexico and San Diego. The federal San Diego Tunnel Task Force says the half-mile passage was found early Thursday and runs from a Tijuana residence to a warehouse in San Diego's Otay Mesa area. Several arrests were made, and an undetermined amount of marijuana was seized in a tractor-trailer on U.S. soil. Authorities believe there is more marijuana inside the tunnel. No other details were released. It is the second major drug tunnel discovery in the area in less than a month. Earlier this month, American authorities confiscated 20 tons of pot they say was smuggled through another tunnel, while Mexican authorities seized more than four tons of the drug

south of the border.

Cops: NJ officer killed in crash by drunken driver

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a New Jersey police officer headed home after work was killed when a drunken driver crashed into his vehicle on the Garden State Parkway. Ocean County Prosecutor Marlene Lynch Ford says a car driven by 32-year-old Officer Jason Marles was rear-ended by a BMW early Thursday. Marles' car spun, hit a guardrail and overturned before striking a tree and bursting into flames. Marles was pronounced dead at the scene. He was still in uniform. The BMW driver, 31-year-old Erick P. Uzategui of Manchester Township, was charged with vehicular homicide and drunken driving. He was held on \$250,000 bail. Marles was a

married father of two children.

Indictment: Calif man threatened Obama in letter

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An indictment filed by a federal grand jury accuses a Northern California man of sending a letter threatening to kill President Barack Obama. Court documents state 54-year-old Roger Hudnall of Eureka made the threat in a letter mailed Jan. 7, 2009. It's not clear from court documents whether Hudnall has an attorney. Wednesday's indictment says he's currently in state custody on another conviction. The San Francisco Chronicle says Hudnall previously served federal prison time for mailing a threatening letter containing white powder to the FBI's San Francisco office in 2002. The substance turned out to be baby powder.

Asia

South Korea's defense chief resigns after NKorea attack

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president ordered more troops to a front-line island and dumped his defense minister Thursday as the country grappled with lapses in its response to a deadly North Korean artillery strike.

In scenes reminiscent of the Korean War 60 years ago, dazed residents of Yeonpyeong island foraged through blackened rubble for pieces of their lives and lugged their possessions down eerily deserted streets strewn with bent metal after Tuesday's hail of artillery. The barrage darkened skies, set off fierce blazes, killed four South Koreans and raised fears of an escalation that could lead to full-scale war.

"It was a sea of fire," resident Lee In-ku said, recalling the flames that rolled through the streets of this island that is home to military bases as well as a fishing community famous for its catches of crab. The spit of land is just seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korea, but had only six pieces of artillery.

Despite warnings from North Korea that any new provocation would be met with more attacks, Washington and Seoul pushed ahead with plans for military drills starting Sunday involving a nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier in waters south of this week's skirmish.

The exercises will likely anger the North—the regime cited South Korean drills this week as the impetus behind its attack—but the president said the South could little afford to abandon such preparation now.

"We should not ease our sense of crisis in preparation for the possibility of another provocation by North Korea," spokesman Hong Sang-pyo quoted President Lee Myung-bak as saying. "A provocation like this can recur any time."

Washington and Seoul also ratcheted up pressure on China, North Korea's main ally and biggest benefactor, to restrain Pyongyang.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao responded by calling on all sides to show "maximum restraint" and pushed again to restart the six-nation talks aimed at persuading North Korea to dismantle its nuclear programs in exchange for aid. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, meanwhile, canceled a trip to Seoul this week.

The heightened inter-Korean animosity is taking place as North Korea undergoes a delicate transition of power from leader Kim Jong Il to his son Kim Jong Un, who is in his late 20s and is expected to eventually succeed his ailing father.

THE KOREAN WAR, 1950-1953

Cold War inferno

Sixty years ago, North Korea invaded South Korea in an effort to unify the peninsula under communist rule. A United Nations army drove North Korean troops out of the south and pursued them into the north, but was forced into a humiliating retreat by the Chinese. Ultimately, it was a war with no winner, ending in stalemate roughly where it began.

HIGHLIGHTS

1950 Invasion

- June 25 North Korea crosses the 38th parallel
- June 27 President Harry Truman orders U.S. air and naval forces to resist communist aggression in Korea; U.N. Security Council backs decision to use force
- June 28 North Koreans capture Seoul
- June 30 Truman orders U.S. ground troops to Korea, along with a naval blockade and Air Force bombing
- Sept. 3 U.N. forces cornered outside Busan; communist offensive threatens Taegu

A massive assault

- Sept. 15 X Corps makes amphibious landing at Incheon, cutting off North Koreans' lines
- Sept. 26 U.N. captures Seoul as North Koreans retreat
- Oct. 7 U.S. troops cross 38th parallel, invading North Korea to destroy its army
- Oct. 8 Mao orders Chinese "volunteers" to enter the war

Chosin Reservoir withdrawal

- Nov. 27-Nov. 30 Massive Chinese attacks halt the U.N.'s drive for the Yalu River. In the west, the scattered 8th Army collapses and retreats in disarray. In the east, the 25,000-strong 1st Marine Division comes under massive attack as it leads the X Corps around the banks of the Chosin Reservoir
- Dec. 1 8th Army, X Corps begin withdrawing under Chinese attack

1951 Change of command

- Jan. 4 Seoul falls to communists again
- March 12 8th Army retakes Seoul
- April 11 Truman relieves Gen. Douglas MacArthur of command; Lt. Gen. Matthew Ridgway replaces him
- July 10 Armistice talks begin at Kaesong

1952 Peace talks stall

- May 2 Communists reject peace proposal, calling for voluntary repatriation of POWs
- Oct. 8 Communists reject final U.N. offer on POWs; talks suspended

1953 Truce without peace

- March 30 Chinese agree to exchange of sick and wounded prisoners
- April 26 Armistice talks resume
- June 8 Agreement reached on POWs; communists accept voluntary repatriation
- July 27 Armistice signed at Panmunjom; no peace treaty is ever signed

Enter the Chinese
Nov. 1950 to Jan. 1951

Stalemate
Jan. 1951 to July 1953

Armistice line

Source: "The Korean War" by Max Hastings, "In Mortal Combat" by John K. Jeon, "The Forgotten War" by Greg Blair, "Korea: The Untold Story of the War" by Joseph C. Goulden. Graphics: Karl Kahler and Doug Greenwald, San Jose Mercury News

World



A man smokes a cigarette in Montevideo, Uruguay, Friday Nov. 19, 2010. AP

More than 600,000 people killed by 2nd-hand smoke

LONDON (AP)—Second-hand smoke kills more than 600,000 people worldwide every year, according to a new study.

In the first look at the global impact of second-hand smoking, researchers analyzed data from 2004 for 192 countries. They found 40 percent of children and more than 30 percent of non-smoking men and women regularly breathe in second-hand smoke.

Scientists then estimated that passive smoking causes about 379,000 deaths from heart disease, 165,000 deaths from lower respiratory disease, 36,900 deaths from asthma and 21,400 deaths from lung cancer a year.

Altogether, those account for about 1 percent of the world's deaths. The study was paid for by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare and Bloomberg Philanthropies. It was published Friday in the British medical journal Lancet.

"This helps us understand the real toll of tobacco," said

Armando Peruga, a program manager at the World Health Organization's Tobacco-Free Initiative, who led the study. He said the approximately 603,000 deaths from second-hand smoking should be added to the 5.1 million deaths that smoking itself causes every year.

Peruga said WHO was particularly concerned about the 165,000 children who die of smoke-related respiratory infections, mostly in Southeast Asia and Africa.

"The mix of infectious diseases and second-hand smoke is a deadly combination," Peruga said. Children whose parents smoke have a higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome, ear infections, pneumonia, bronchitis and asthma. Their lungs may also grow more slowly than kids whose parents don't smoke. Peruga and colleagues found the highest numbers of people exposed to second-hand smoke are in Europe and Asia. The lowest

rates of exposure were in the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa.

Second-hand smoke had its biggest impact on women, killing about 281,000. In many parts of the world, women are at least 50 percent more likely to be exposed to second-hand smoke than men.

While many Western countries have introduced smoking bans in public places, experts said it would be difficult to legislate further.

"I don't think it is likely we will see strong regulations reaching into homes," said Heather Wipfli of the Institute for Global Health at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, who was not connected to the study. She said more public smoking bans and education might persuade people to quit smoking at home.

In the U.K., the British Lung Foundation is petitioning the government to outlaw smoking in cars.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico: Mayor with drug cartel links goes missing

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP)—The mayor and mayor-elect of a southern town disappeared after Mexico's army detained members of the municipal police force and other local officials on suspicion they were working for a drug cartel, authorities said Thursday. **Ciudad Juarez**, mayor of Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacan, and Pedro Bautista, who was slated to succeed him next month, went missing on Wednesday. That was just days after soldiers rounded up nearly half the town's police force and two city hall officials thought to belong to a gang allied with the Zetas, the cartel that controls much of the state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala.

Egypt: 156 detained over Christian riots

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's prosecutor general leveled severe accusations Thursday against 156 Christians, including explosives possession and attempted murder, following clashes with police over the building of a church. One person died and 68 others were injured when security forces halted construction on a church citing violations of building permits. Angry Christians hurled stones while riot police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets near the church and later in clashes outside the governor's office. The prosecutor general ordered a renewable 15-day-detention for those arrested, on accusations of sabotage, assault, possession of explosives and attempted murder of police.

Rio cops use armor to raid slum where gang based

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Elite police units riding in military armored vehicles rumbled through a heavily fortified slum Thursday hunting for drug gang leaders blamed for five days of violence, even as dozens of armed youths fled to a neighboring shantytown. The push into the Vila Cruzeiro shantytown left at least eight people dead and one police officer wounded, authorities said. It is part of a police campaign to clean up Rio's drug gang-ridden slums before the city hosts football's World Cup in 2014 and the Summer Olympics two years later.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, November 27, 2010

The Saipan Zoo's menagerie beckons

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Isabel Bulong, working at a garden and zoo has instilled in her the importance of caring for wildlife and the environment.

A native of Cebu province in the Philippines, Bulong has been the office manager for one of the special attractions on island, the Saipan Zoo, for 20 years.

Located in As Mahetog, Saipan Zoo features an interesting collection of indigenous wildlife as well as exotic and barn animals for locals and tourists alike.

Bulong told Saipan Tribune that the zoo actually started as Tropical Gardens, a garden and plant nursery that housed over 300 species of plant life in 1990.

In November 1996, owners Frank and Ursula Aldan decided to open the zoo to showcase indigenous animals such as the Mariana fruit bats, coconut crabs, and monitor lizards.

"My boss wanted to put up a facility where people, particularly the students, will have an educational experience through their interaction with the animals," she said.

Since then, Bulong has been dedicated to taking care of the zoo as well as the gardens, making her job a big part of her life.



Saipan Zoo office manager Isabel Bulong plays with Liberty the monkey at the Saipan Zoo located in As Mahetog. Saipan Zoo features different indigenous as well as exotic animals.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Challenging, fun

Bulong said being an office manager in a zoo is a very challenging and demanding job that can give you unparalleled rewards.

"Through this job, I got to know all these animals and their way of life, from their eating habits to sleeping routines," she said.

Bulong said Saipan Zoo has



about 40 different exotic animals, including a tiger, an African lion, crown crane, kinkajou, monkeys, and a green iguana.

She said they also have retained all the indigenous and

IF YOU GO

- » Saipan Zoo is open daily from 9am to 5pm and offers group discounts.
- » Local rates are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.
- » For more information, call 322-5711.

barn animals like ducks, rabbits, and hamsters.

According to Bulong, maintaining the zoo is a difficult task as they have to consider a lot of factors like monitoring the animals' health and giving them proper nutrition.

Bulong said the larger animals like the tiger and lion need about 10 to 15 lbs of meat for their food.

"It's not just any meat. You have to make sure that you give them enough chicken, mix in some beef and internal organs so they don't get tired of their food," she said.

For the fruit and plant-eating animals, Bulong said they planted their own papaya and banana trees to provide them a steady food supply, saving money in the process as they don't have to buy fruits.

Since the zoo only has three zoo keepers at present, Bulong said they can be quite short-staffed when it comes to cleaning the animal cages.

Bulong said this is the rea-

son why they appreciate students who volunteer their time helping out at the zoo, like the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Bravo Company, which held their service learning activity at Saipan Zoo on Nov. 23.

In fact, Saipan Zoo also has its own student volunteer program to encourage students to spend their time at the zoo and learn more about the animals.

But despite these challenges, Bulong said working at a zoo still has its benefits and advantages.

"Knowing that you impart to the students the importance of taking care of animals is beyond compare. Eventually, some of these students might choose this career path because of what you've done for them," she said.

Bulong encouraged members of the community to visit Saipan Zoo and interact with the different exotic and indigenous animals.

Saipan Zoo is open daily from 9am to 5pm and offers group discounts. Local rates are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. For more information, call 322-5711.

Consulate, POLO to conduct free health screening

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consul General Office on Saipan and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office will conduct a free health screening for all Filipino workers on Saipan.

The Free Health Screening

for OFWs, held every first Sunday of the last month of the quarter, is scheduled on Dec. 5 on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Registration for the screening will start at 6am.

Services to be provided during the screening are blood

sugar, blood pressure, as well as vision check up.

Filipino nurses from the Commonwealth Health Center and members of the Filipino Pharmacists Association will administer the blood sugar and blood pressure screenings while staff of Hardt Eye Clinic volunteered

to conduct vision check up.

Individuals who want to avail of the blood sugar test are advised not to have any liquid and solid intake for at least 12 hours prior to the screening.

During the health screening, a help desk will be set up to help address Consulate-related concerns.

Palero, Doctor awarded scholarships

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Filipino moms Rosalinda Perje and Tina Doctor decided to skip work for a couple of hours just to see their eldest daughters get awarded with scholarships.

Perje's daughter Joana Marie P. Palero and Doctor's daughter Hazel Marie B. Doctor were among the chosen recipients of the Businesswoman of the Year scholarships of First

Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business on Saipan.

The Businesswoman of the Year Award program offers financial assistance for students of the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and the Northern Marianas College who have good academic standing.

The two mothers witnessed the awarding of the scholarship checks yesterday at the bank's Gualo Rai branch.

"I'm very proud of my daugh-

ter. She really worked so hard for it," said Perje who works at Saipan World Resort.

Perje told *Saipan Tribune* that her daughter Joana is a very responsible working student. She currently works as a financial aid office assistant at the Northern Marianas College.

"It's a big help for her because it will help pay for her expenses. She wants to become independent and responsible," she said, adding that her

Doctor, who works as an accountant at Sam & My International Corp., is also proud of her daughter whom she describes as studious and actively involved in the church.

"Her studies is her priority and she's really determined to do everything to excel in school. She's a very good kid," she said.

Doctor said her wish for daughter Hazel is for her to finish her studies and hopefully give back to the community that helped her.

ON REPORTS OF Q3 SLOW GROWTH

Peso retreats to P44 vs US dollar

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The peso fell back to the 44-to-a-dollar territory on Thursday, after temporarily recovering with the P43 mark the previous day, even as the government reported a slower-than-expected

While the decline of the peso to the 44:\$1 territory on Tuesday was due to an external factor, particularly the tension in Korea that dragged major Asian currencies, the drop on Thursday was due to internal factor.

Traders said the less-than-expected growth of the econ-

growth of the economy for the third quarter.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P44.24

The local currency closed at 44.08 against the greenback, down by 11 centavos from the Wednesday's finish of 43.97. On Tuesday, the peso closed at 44.2, the first time it entered the 44:\$1 level in two months.

Intraday high on Thursday stood at 43.98:\$1, while intraday low settled at 44.15:\$1. Volume of trade inched up to \$873.69 million from \$761.09 million.

omy in the third quarter prompted some investors to shift their funds into dollars.

The economy grew by 6.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, slower than the government's projection for the quarter of between 6.7 and 7.7 percent.

However, the average growth for the first three quarters of the year was still robust at 7.5 percent, well above the official target for the full year of 5 to 6 percent.

PH Labor allays fears of OFW kin in South Korea

By **NORMAN BORDADORA**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz on Thursday tried to allay the worries and fears of the families of some 60,000 overseas Filipino workers in South Korea.

"I would like to assure the families of our OFWs in South Korea that their loved ones working in that country are safe and alright, despite the news of the skirmish between North and South Korea military in an island off the western sea border of the two countries," Baldoz said in a statement.

"Our Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Seoul, headed by Labor Attaché Felicitas Bay, has reported that our Philippine Embassy, under its contingency plan, is currently coordinating with leaders of the Filipino

PAL offers emergency flights to evacuate OFWs in Korea

MANILA, Philippines—Philippines Airlines (PAL) said it is prepared to mount emergency flights to evacuate Filipinos in South Korea should the tension in the Korean peninsula escalates into a full-blown conflict.

In a statement Friday, the country's flag carrier said PAL officials had met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs

where they expressed readiness to have special flights for the repatriation of the Filipinos.

"We informed Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa that PAL has available aircraft that it can use for emergency flights to repatriate Filipinos who might be trapped in the dispute between North and South Korea," said PAL president and chief operating office Jaime Bautista.

"We want to assure the gov-

ernment and our 'kababayans' in South Korea that the national flag carrier is always ready to assist in times of emergency and lend a helping hand in their hour of need," he added.

Bautista said that they are now identifying areas in South Korea, where their planes could safely land and pick up Filipinos for flights back to the Philippines.

PAL continues its regular flights to Seoul and Busan un-

til otherwise advised either by Philippine or South Korean authorities.

Updates on the conflict are also being fed to PAL management by its staff in Seoul who, in turn, get information from the Philippine embassy in South Korea.

PAL currently flies Manila-Seoul twice a day, to Busan four times a week, and daily from Cebu to Seoul. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Exit plan

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration have allotted P50 million in the event that an evacuation would take place in the ongoing Korean Peninsula conflict, OWWA Administrator Jennifer Manalili told Radyo Inquirer's Jay Sonza

of "Tapatan" Thursday.

Philippine ambassador to Seoul Luis Cruz said in a separate interview that the Korean conflict was unlikely to escalate but were still closely monitoring the situation.

Manalili said that Philippine labor attaché to South Korea, Felicitas Bay, is communicating with the Filipino communities there and that they have laid out an exit plan.

"One problem that we can see here is the location of the undocumented workers," said Manalili. "They are those irregular workers who have exceeded the maximum allowable number of years to work in South Korea but still refuse to go home."

She clarified that out of the estimated 50,000 OFWs in South Korea, only 35,000 were processed while the rest undocumented.

50,000 Filipinos in ROK put on Alert Level 1

By **KRISTINE L. ALAVE**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SEOUL—Filipinos in the Republic of Korea (ROK) have been put on alert for possible evacuation in case tension in the restive Korean Peninsula escalates, the Philippine Embassy in Seoul said yesterday.

Consul General Sylvia Marasigan told the Inquirer that Filipinos in the country had been notified that they were on alert following North Korea's artillery attacks on Yeonpyeong Island that killed two South Korean soldiers and two civilians, and wounded 18 others.

"We are on heightened alert. We are advising Filipinos to be informed of news and to be aware of their personal documents," Marasigan said.

Alert Level 1 is the lowest of a three-tiered signal established by the embassy for Filipino nationals in South Korea. Filipinos are advised to restrict their movements under Alert Level 2, while Alert Level 3 means relocation.



South Koreans living in the country raise their clenched fists as they shout slogans during a rally Friday, Nov. 26, 2010 in suburban Taguig City, east of Manila, Philippines. The South Koreans staged the rally to show their support for their government and condemned the North Korean shelling of Yeonpyeong island that killed four South Koreans—two marines and two civilians.

No travel advisory

In Manila, spokesperson Eduardo Malaya of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said there were no Filipinos on Yeonpyeong and that the de-

partment saw no need to issue an advisory against travel to South Korea.

"We're hoping tensions are temporary in nature. We're not suspending any programs or

services. Those who are supposed to visit South Korea or work there can proceed to do so, taking into account that they have an informed decision," Malaya said.

Cheap cost of sending money from Japan vowed

By **CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Starting in January next year, Filipinos here who send money back home will be able to do so swiftly, safely and, more importantly, minus the huge expenses.

President Benigno Aquino III made this announcement on Sunday night at a gathering of the Filipino community at Futaba high school, eliciting loud cheers of "thank you, Mr. President" and applause from the crowd.

Some 1,000 Filipinos packed the school auditorium to see the President, whom foreign affairs officials had said, got most of the votes in the May polls.

Mr. Aquino assured them that their families back home were "in good hands" now that he is at the helm, but that his administration was also looking at their concerns here, including the high cost of remitting money to the Philippines.

He said he found that many Filipinos in Japan were complaining about the remittance service, particularly on the complicated process of sending money and its huge cost. "They don't get the entire money you send back home," he said.

But Mr. Aquino stressed that this would all change because his administration, through the Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank), had come up with an arrangement with Japan Post Bank

to make the remittance process faster, safer and much cheaper.

"Starting Jan. 17, 2011, you can now send your money at the nearest Japan Post Bank and this will enter the Landbank account more faster and allow your families to receive it at any Landbank branch in the Philippines," he said.

The President said he would ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to study the desire of Filipinos working and living in Japan to put up a home or "Tahanan" to help young Filipinos here appreciate the Philippine culture.

"It's important we establish a strong foundation of our being a Filipino in any place in the world; no one else but only us can do this," he said.

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Advisory on fraudulent GSIS agents

The Government Service Insurance System is warning the public, as well as the insurance industry and regulatory bodies, that private individuals are fraudulently securing reinsurance contracts/claims without their authority. Such schemes have been reported in England and Australia.

GSIS notes that it assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify any party for any contract or agreement entered into in violation of the above-mentioned policy. (*PR*)

PH economy's growth slows to 6.5 pct. in Q3

By **RONNEL DOMINGO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Growth of the Philippine economy slowed to 6.5 percent in the July-September period from that of the previous year as government spending eased while the country's agriculture out-

put declined due to the El Niño weather disturbance.

Romulo A. Virola, secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board, said in a briefing that the growth of the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), during the first nine months of the year was the highest "honor-

able" since the Ramos administration.

GDP refers to all goods produced and services rendered and paid for within an economy at a given time.

Virola said that the economy contracted by 0.7 percent in the first three months of President Fidel V. Ramos in office.

GDP grew by 1.3 percent during Joseph Estrada's debut and 5.6 percent when it was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's turn.

Malacañang on Thursday welcomed the news, seeing it as an indication that the country could very well attain a full-year growth of 7 percent at the most.

Communication Secretary Ricky Carandang told reporters that growth in the country "remains robust," but acknowledged that the latest figures reflected "relatively slower growth."

Carandang attributed the slowdown to the decline in agriculture growth and public construction spending for the third quarter.

The good news is that consumption has picked up and most other indicators suggest robust consumption spending will continue to be firm until the end of the year, Carandang said. "So ... if it were not for [agriculture], we would have gotten a higher growth. Nevertheless, 6.5 percent brings us to about 7.5 percent for the first 3

quarters of the year. Still a very healthy growth."

Carandang took into account the growth rates posted in the first semester—7.9 percent in the second quarter and 7.8 percent in the first.

According to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr., a double-digit growth is also seen in durable equipment, which may mean an impending rise in production.

Paderanga said that, with interest rates still at historic lows, business confidence would continue to rise.

"This implies that the private sector is picking up, given the low inflation as well as the favorable policy rate environment in the country," Paderanga said.

He was referring to the decision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to keep its overnight borrowing rate at 4 percent and overnight lending rate at 6 percent.

Virola said that from July to September, the services sector regained its status as the main driver of economic expansion,

growing by 7.7 percent and contributing 3.9 points in the overall growth rate.

The industry sector grew by 9.2 percent but accounted for some 3 points of the GDP growth rate.

At the same time, the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector shrank by 2.5 percent, pushing down GDP growth by 0.4 point.

Consumer spending, which is largely driven by remittances from overseas Filipinos, grew faster at 4.2 percent from 2.6 percent last year.

In the third quarter, exports of goods and services rose by 29.9 percent, while imports grew 18.2 percent.

In terms of trade value, exports outweighed imports, resulting in a trade surplus of P143.2 billion.

"As population reached an estimated 94.24 million, growth of per capita GDP rebounded to 4.4 percent from negative 1.7 percent," Virola said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendano, AFP*

Pacquiao said to retire in 3 years

» OK to battle Marquez next

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao said Monday he plans to retire by the time he reaches 35 in three years, after his latest win over Antonio Margarito cemented his boxing superstar status.

Asked at a news conference in Manila when he intends to retire, Pacquiao, who turns 32 in December, said: "Not too long from now, but I don't want to go beyond 35."

The boxing champion also said he is willing to fight Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez

again but that it would probably not excite fans.

"But I think people are not so interested ... because if I were a boxing fan, I would not watch Pacquiao vs Marquez," he said.

He said he has no problem fighting Marquez and can sign a contract anytime as long as the promoter is Marquez' own, negotiations are fair and he has a guaranteed prize.

Pacquiao, who was elected representative of southern Sarangani province in May national elections, has embraced local politics and surprised many by taking his new job as seriously as boxing.

He said he had initiated steps to build the first provincial hospital for Sarangani's 500,000 residents, in addition to offering programs for the poor.

In his speech accepting the congressional award, Pacquiao said he was inspired in the ring by the love for his country, and that his achievements show that Filipinos can excel against all odds.

"My championship belt in the eighth weight division, the first in the history of boxing, shall forever cement the Filipino people as the eighth wonder of the world," Pacquiao said. *(Cebu Daily News)*



AP

Philippines President Benigno Aquino III, left, receives a frame of newly printed 500 peso bills with the image of his father the late Sen. Benigno Aquino and bearing his signature from Central Bank Governor Amando Tetangco, right, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, at the Malacanang palace in Manila, Philippines. Behind at left is Central Bank Deputy Gov. Armando Suratos.

By **CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Aquino told monetary officials that he practiced his penmanship for the new peso notes which will be in circulation starting Friday.

The complete set of Philippine peso bills bearing the signature of Aquino was presented to him Thursday in Malacañang by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials led by its governor, Armando Tetangco.

"[The President] narrated how he practiced to improve his penmanship and showed several practice sheets to us," said Monetary Board member Ignacio Bunye, who was at the closed-door BSP presentation of

the new peso notes.

The new peso bills have the same design and features as the existing ones.

Bunye said Aquino was pleased with the new peso notes.

The President confirmed his meeting with BSP officials on December 16, this time for the presentation of the first set of new generation currencies, according to Bunye.

He was referring to the launching next month of a new redesigned batch of bank notes that will feature an upgraded design and security features.

It was the first time Bunye and fellow Monetary Board member Peter Favila—who both served under then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—were with Aquino in Malacañang.

Bunye had served as press secretary and presidential spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, while Favila had served as her trade secretary.

Design, security upgraded

Fe de la Cruz of the BSP's Corporate Affairs Office said the central bank had stopped printing peso notes bearing the signature of Arroyo when Mr. Aquino assumed office on June 30.

She said the current peso bills would "still be legal tender" and that these would "coexist" with the new redesigned bank notes to be circulated next month.

"For three or more years, the present design will still be legal tender," De la Cruz told reporters.

32 Pinoy workers arrested in Saudi—Migrante

By **DJ YAP**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Thirty-two undocumented overseas Filipino workers were arrested Wednesday night in a series of raids on apartments housing illegal aliens in Saudi Arabia, an OFW association said Thursday.

Migrante-Middle East said the Philippine Labor Overseas Office in Al-Khobar has confirmed that the 32, including 26 women, were apprehended by the Saudi police in a continuing government crackdown on over-staying expatriates.

On Wednesday night, a police

team raided the accommodations and quarters of illegal aliens at Tukbah, Al-Khobar, Migrante-Middle East said in a statement.

"We appeal to the Saudi government to respect the rights of undocumented migrants, including OFWs, in the conduct of its intensified campaign to hunt 'illegal' and undocumented migrants," said John Leonard Monterona, Migrante-Middle East regional coordinator.

Migrante, an organization espousing migrant Filipinos' rights, urged the Saudi government to consider granting a "general amnesty" that would

cover illegal and undocumented migrant workers.

Monterona also called on the Philippine Embassy, under the leadership of charge d'affaires ad interim Ezzedin H. Tago, to make the same appeal to the Saudi government and properly represent those who arrested.

"We also call on the Aquino government, through the office of Vice President Jejomar Binay and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), to lobby to the host government the legalization of all undocumented OFWs, giving them the option to be repatriated or to stay, and find jobs in the Kingdom," Monterona added.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Indian money lender killed in Sultan Kudarat

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Philippines—Unidentified gunmen shot dead an Indian national and wounded another in President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, on Thursday afternoon, a police official said Friday. Senior Inspector Celestino Sanie, President Quirino police chief, said Charmjewd Singh, a money lender, died while being treated in a hospital. Another Indian national, Sirgit Singh, was wounded. It was not clear, however, if the two were related. Sanie said the victims were riding tandem on a motorcycle from Buluan, Maguindanao, when they were shot by the assailants, who were also on a motorcycle. Sanie said the motive could be robbery as the victims had just collected money from their customers.

Metro under tight watch for Maguindanao massacre suspects

MANILA, Philippines—Police are keeping tight security in Metro Manila over reports that some suspects in the November 23, 2009 carnage may be hiding in the capital. Task force Maguindanao director Chief Superintendent Benito Estipona told a news forum Friday that there were reports that "a few" suspects are hiding in Manila but these were still being

validated. He also cannot give an exact number of the suspects who have reportedly fled here. Last month, a militiaman wanted in the killings was arrested in Pasay City. He was identified as Mochtar Daud, a supposed driver of the Ampatuan clan. Estipona said to prepare for a possible "spillover," the task group has formed one dedicated tracker team in Metro Manila to hunt down any massacre suspect in hiding here.

Lacson lawyer asks court to dismiss case

MANILA, Philippines—A counsel of fugitive Senator Panfilo Lacson has asked the Court of Appeals to junk the testimony of former Senior Superintendent Cezar Mancao, the main witness who implicated him in the double murder case of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito, after he admitted that he knew of the crime only after the fact. Lacson's legal representatives, Poblador, Bautista & Reyes law firm led by Atty. Alexander Poblador, said in a manifestation to the Court of Appeals of Manila that this and other admissions that Mancao made in the comment to the double murder case submitted to the Manila Trial Court Branch 18 last November 11 "underscore the total lack of probable cause to issue warrants of arrest against Senator Lacson."

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

RUSHES

Top Politico has eyes for TV reporters and starlets

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

After being linked with female TV reporters, Top Politico got involved with Sexy Starlets.

SS1 was reportedly showered with hush money to keep mum about the love affair. Is this the reason that Rushes often sees her shopping in an upscale mall in Ortigas Center?

TP's younger ex-flame, SS2, is now married and has a child.

These days, TP seems back to eyeing media personalities, if rumors are to be believed.

An insider told Rushes that he wasn't really interested in newbie TV Reporter, though.

TP just asked for TR's name because he wasn't impressed with her question at a press conference, said a mole.

Rocky union

Could it be that the marriage of Drama Actress to Political Scion is on the rocks?

In her latest projects, DA engaged in some daring scenes that no happily married woman would do.

Could she have called it quits with PS, whose family life is troubled to say the least?

Refreshing change

A mole whispered to Rushes that the staff and stars of a TV show had an emergency meeting recently.

The production team was purportedly alarmed by criticisms that the show's New Addition seemed too anemic for comfort.

They need not fret.

NA is a refreshing change from the shrill and tactless co-hosts of past shows.

Under investigation

Enemies insist that Top Executive's days are numbered.

TE is allegedly under investigation by home studio.

Rushes takes the report with a grain of salt because it emanated from the camp of TE's nemesis, Fearless Celebrity.

But then again Big Boss also told Rushes that a certain nameless offi-

cer's record is being scrutinized.

On the opposite side of the fence, the threat of closure is hanging over a relatively successful Film Company.

Is it because of the string of flops that FC has suffered of late?

GMA 7 fetes Pacquiao

Last Sunday, Manny Pacquiao shuttled between studios 6 and 7 of GMA Network for his production numbers in "Party Pilipinas" and to grace a thanksgiving-victory luncheon held in his honor.

The world's best pound-for-pound boxing king was the star of a special episode of "Party Pilipinas" and was feted in the luncheon for trouncing Mexican Antonio Margarito and winning his eighth championship belt.

On hand to welcome Pacquiao were his fellow Kapuso stars, members of the press, advertisers and GMA Network officers led by chairman-CEO Atty. Felipe L. Gozon and president-COO Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr.

Wrapping up the tribute for Pacquiao was the telecast of his homecoming concert at SM Mall of Asia in his Sunday show, "Show Me Da Manny."

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Sharon Cuneta on intrigues involving KC Concepcion: "Inaapi 'yung anak ko. May sinungaling or may mga ganun na nakakarating sa amin ... 'Pag lumampas, uunahin ko 'yung pagka-nanay ko. Ina ako ng babaeng pinaggagagawan mo ng kalokohan. So mag-ingat ka lang." (Afffraid.)

Ejay Falcon on his alleged nude photos: "Mas kakabahan ako kung mukha ko talaga ang nakikita. Pero hindi po e, naka-sideview siya and marami naman raw po akong kamukha." (Cool.)

Carla Abellana, asked if father Rey "PJ" Abellana was really against her relationship with Geoff Eigenmann: "Not at all ... Hindi siya kontra kay Geoff. He's just against me having a boyfriend in general." (Is that better?)

Kim Chiu on her love life: "Zero balance muna tayo diyan!" (*Startalk, The Buzz, Showbiz Central*)

Kapuso foundation marks 20 years, Tiangco still fired up

MANILA, Philippines—The GMA Kapuso Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary during a general assembly for employees on Nov. 11 at the network's Studio 7 in Quezon City.

The foundation's programs, covering cover four main areas—education, health, disaster relief, and values formation—have served millions of Filipinos.

In an interview before the assembly, news anchor Mel Tiangco, the foundation's EVP and COO, said being a non-stock, non-profit operation

was a big challenge in the aspect of funding. "We're lucky that the network

supports us. At the same time, we thank the public who also help us. We need millions for our projects."

Mel said finding the right people for the work wasn't easy, either. "The foundation can't pay big salaries. We need people with big hearts. The first question I ask an applicant is, 'Do you have service in your heart?' But we have come to believe that the harder a project is, the more blessings we receive."

Did she ever get frustrated? "I get a little low sometimes," she said, "but you go on. It's a calling, a vocation. I never become frustrated. The fulfillment I get compensates for everything."

Fervently praying for William Martinez's recovery

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I was shocked to receive a text message saying that my first boyfriend, William Martinez, was rushed to the ICU of St. Luke's Medical Center after suffering a stroke.

The last time I saw him was a few months ago at Cerchio Restaurant. It happened to be an '80s-themed night so I teased him: "Funny, we were 'on' back in the '80s. Perfect timing that it's an '80s party tonight."

He kidded me. "Para tayong nag-time travel to your high school days when I was your date."

We both had a good laugh. I fervently pray for his full recovery.

Newscast revamp

I asked Ces Drilon about her sentiments regarding the revamp of ABS-CBN's "Bandila," where she is one of the anchors.

"Mixed emotions," she said. "Sad because the team had to bid Henry Omgang Diaz goodbye. We've worked with him since 'Bandila's inception. Happy to welcome the team's new members, Julius and Karen, who undoubtedly will bring a new dynamism to the program. We will all work together to deliver our best to the audience. We are all Kapamilya after all."

Incidentally, the couple will be awarded as two of the Child Friendly Celebrities in the 2010 Anak TV Seal Awards. May the child-friendly couple have more children in the future.

Pacman's women

I finally met Mommy Dionisia Pacquiao, who is such a lovable "karakter." Is it true that while she was praying unceasingly for her son Manny's victory in his recent match with Antonio Margarito, Pacman's wife Jinkee was busy shopping?

"Nagulat nga ako nung narinig ko ang balita na 'yan," she said. "Wala naman kaming problema ni Jinkee. Pareho kaming full support kay Manny. At pareho rin naman kaming pinagsho-shopping ni Manny. Magkaibang brand lang nga hilig namin. Ako Chanel, si Jinkee, Hermes (laughs)."

Sad to leave



Baranda

Phomela Baranda has no ill feelings for Gretchen Fulido, who replaced her on "TV Patrol."

"All is well between Greth and I," Phomela clarifies. "I'm sincerely happy for her. It's

only natural that I'm sad I'm no longer in 'Patrol.' But I've come to accept the fact that, at some point, I have to move on and take the next step. I will have a new show but the details are still being ironed out."

Goodbye Wyngard

My deepest condolences to the family of a beloved colleague, Wyngard Tracy. Tito Wyn was very close to my mom. He practically watched me grow.

My fondest memory of him is celebrating my birthdays at his old club, Music Hall. He always made sure that my party would be unforgettable and he even let his wards, Side A, perform a mini-concert at my parties gratis et amore.

Thanks, Tito Wyn for loving me like your own. You are an irreplaceable loss in the industry. I take comfort in the thought that you and mom are now partying in heaven.

Not preggy

Venus Raj was spotted at an obstetrician/gynecologist clinic. She's not pregnant. My source says she just had to undergo a medical procedure. Nope, Bb. Pilipinas is not turning into Ginang Pilipinas.

Best gift

What's the Christmas gift that Ogie Alcasid loves to receive and the one he likes to get the least?

"I love receiving cards that have been personally written," he says. "Gifts that have not been given any thought or effort are the least exciting to receive."

The groom-to-be is more excited than nervous for his wedding on December 22.

"Regine and I are planning a belated honeymoon in Italy next year."

New award

Dingdong Dantes is ecstatic about his Best Actor award from the 24th Philippine Movie Press ClubStar Awards for TV, and his nomination for Best Drama Actor in the Asian TV Awards to be held in Singapore on Dec. 9.

"It's my first acting award," he says. "People used to ask me a lot why I still didn't have an award. Maybe because back then, I really didn't hope for it. But when GMA-7 gave me many good projects, I told myself that to gain satisfaction from my work that can be validated by many, hindi ko lang dapat pangarapin magka-award kundi dapat gawin."

"I just did my role right and put my heart into it. I am grateful to the PMPC for the recognition. It's also an honor to be the only Pinoy nominated in the ATA."

"I am still in awe and enjoying the feeling but I know that this will raise the standard for my next performance. I thank Marian for inspiring me para higitan ang anumang akalain ko na 'di ko kaya."

What does he plan to give Marian for Christmas? "Something useful for cooking," he says. "Perhaps a Salad-master. And a gift that will make Super Inday fly higher this film fest. If I win at the ATA, drinks are on me."

No chance

Speaking of Dong, did Karylle really bump into him and Marian Rivera when she (K) was doing a coverage of the Gin Blossoms concert at the Big Dome?

"I didn't see them," K clarified. "I saw his best friends outside, though, when I did a spiel for 'Asap.'" The band's hit song, "Hey Jealousy," no longer applies to the ex-couple.

New Kapatid?

Is it true that ABS-CBN business unit head and VP for entertainment Deo Endrinal (whom I fondly call classmate since we were in UP at the same time) will be moving to TV5? He was spotted at the Kapatid network grounds. Deo is an asset to any network. Is it the end for Endrinal in the Kapamilya station?

Goodbye, Hitmakers?

Are the Kanto Boys taking over the hosting chores of the Hitmakers in "Pilipinas Win na Win"? Or would it be better to scrap the noontime show since it hasn't lived up to its name, and has, in fact, not found the winning formula?



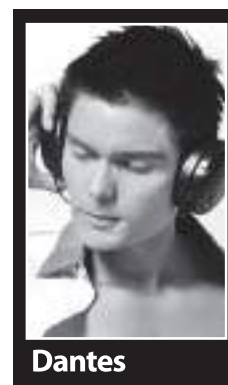
Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo.

Child-friendly couple

In the mad scramble for scoops and ratings, it's sad that some people will sacrifice privacy and not honor personal requests. That is what happened to the christening of Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo's baby Lucho.

According to Ryan's manager, Noel Ferrer, there's no truth to the rumor that Judy Ann and Ryan just wanted the highest bidder for Lucho's exclusive photos.

"They are more decent than that," Noel explained. "They kept their promise of sharing Lucho's pictures when the time was right. So it was pointless for some people to stake out at the baptism to get unauthorized footage."



Dantes

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Six years

One year after 57 people, including 32 journalists, were mercilessly slaughtered in the town of Ampatuan, the ordinary people of Maguindanao still fear the clan suspected of committing the mass murder. Although the patriarch, Andal Ampatuan Sr., as well as his son and namesake who stands accused of leading the executioners, is behind bars, very few people in the province dare to speak openly against the family or of the massacre that happened on Nov. 23 last year. “You don’t see them, but they are still around,” said a resident of the provincial capital, Sharif Aguak, who spoke to the Inquirer only on condition he not be identified.

What he meant is that the Ampatuans still continue to wield not just influence in their fiefdom but the power of life or death over anyone who dares to cross them.

How? Mainly through scores of their co-conspirators who have managed to elude arrest. They are suspected of killing five potential witnesses in the murder cases being tried by the regional trial court in Quezon City. And they continue to get instructions from the jailed Ampatuan clan members who communicate with them by means of cell phones, according to Gov. Toto Manguadatu whose wife was among those killed in the massacre.

That the Ampatuans continue to hold sway in their corner of the world was also proven in the elections last May, when the 36 clan members out of the 38 who ran were elected to various local positions.

The Ampatuans’ infrastructure of terror may have been diminished but it has not been completely dismantled. And they will continue to strike fear in the hearts of ordinary people until it becomes indubitably clear that they will be spending the rest of their lives in jail.

This is one reason—aside of course from the urgency of giving justice to the victims—why we cannot emphasize enough the need to speed up the trial of the Ampatuans, father and sons, as well as their henchmen. This is why we find unacceptable the six-year timetable set by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for finishing the trial.

Six years gives Ampatuans more than enough leeway to get themselves off the hook. Considering how influential and powerful they are, six years is enough time for them to cow the kin of the 57 massacre victims and compel witnesses to retract. De Lima herself cited the “capacity, resources and status of the accused.” Six years is enough time for the rich and powerful clan to buy or bury the witnesses. Six years is enough time to transform the trial into a mistrial.

As we have stated before, what is at stake in “the trial of the century” is the credibility of the Philippine justice system. The Nov. 23 massacre in fact has been blamed on the culture of impunity that has been engendered by a justice system that often has been disparaged as the breeding ground of lawlessness, injustice and all the evils that it is supposed to check. If the government fails to properly and effectively prosecute the case, if the defense is allowed to resort to dilatory tactics, and if Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes fails to manage the trial well, then the consequences for the Philippine justice system would be incalculable: it would be no less than a reaffirmation of its utter hopelessness and inutility. The result will be chaos and anarchy. It should not take six years for the people to know how irredeemable their justice system is. Or for that matter, how redeemable it is.

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The death of a scientist

I first met Leonard Co in the late 1970s. I was his patient.

I realize this takes some explaining: Since Leonard was a botanist, what would that have made of me? Botanists treat plants and vegetables. No, Leonard also practiced acupuncture. My fraternity brother and now UP professor Roli Talampas brought me to Leonard’s laboratory in one of the buildings at the back of the science pavilions (then called the National Science Research Center, if I recall right), and Roli would now recall Leonard’s favorite prank before acupuncture sessions, scaring patients with 6-inch needles and saying he would now begin his “pako-puncture” and “acu-pako.” But I forged on, curious about this newfangled acupuncture therapy I had just heard about, finding this man who had the scholarly mien of a Ph.D., and, yes, he was Chinese—and that helped too.

We would since go our own ways, me crossing the academic oval over to law school, and I realize sadly now that one subject I have chosen to teach, international humanitarian law, would be the field of law that would be cited at Leonard’s death. In that field of law, Leonard would have been a “protected person,” immune from being a target of hostilities.

Physicist Giovanni Tapang chairs the *Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya Para sa Sambayanan*, an organization of Filipino scientists devoted to making science and technology work for the people. Dr. Tapang believes that the shooting of Leonardo Co and his two aides resulted from the “indiscriminate firing by troops without verification of their targets” since, based on witnesses’ accounts, it wasn’t preceded by an exchange of gunfire between government and rebel soldiers.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines insists that the fatal shooting happened during a legitimate encounter between government forces and the New People’s Army. Under other conditions, that reasoning might normally suffice. The fundamental principle in IHL is the principle of distinction, that is to say, between combatants and civilians. When

the AFP says it was a legitimate encounter, it means that the shooting was between combatants, wherein both parties were legitimate military targets and thus open season to hostile fire. The Philippines has signed the Geneva Conventions and its Second Protocol, both applicable to the ongoing conflict between the republic and the NPA. We have also passed our own local IHL law, RA 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity.

Yet Leonard was certainly not a combatant. Theoretically, a civilian could lose his protected status once he “participates directly” in the hostilities, by taking arms or by lending military assistance to a party to the conflict. Today, more than a week after his death, all the facts show that he was there as a scientist, as an expert in botany—not as a combatant.

He was engaged by the Energy Development Corp. for its Binhi Program in the forests of Kananaga, Leyte. EDC is part of the Lopez group of companies, and Binhi is the Lopez group’s biodiversity restoration and forest conservation initiatives. They tapped Leonard as a long-standing partner in their goal of planting 10,000 hectares of endemic and endangered plant species over the next 10 years.

It is therefore very significant under IHL that EDC had informed the relevant command of the Philippine Army about Leonard’s planned route and activities, and had received positive confirmation for them to proceed before they entered the area. In other words, there could have been no excuse to violate the principle of distinction.

On top of it all, Leonardo Co was no ordinary civilian; he was a scholar, a learned man by the most exacting standards of UP’s scientific community, the strictest in the whole campus. By analogy, all persons enjoy the freedom of speech, but a particu-



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

lar group, i.e., professors and researchers, enjoy protection for a special variant of speech, namely, academic speech, which is then protected by academic freedom.

Project that same logic to IHL. We immunize civilians from hostilities because they form no part of combat, and shooting them confers no military advantage whatsoever. A life is lost but there is nothing gained. Yet in losing a botanist par excellence, not only do we

gain nothing, we lose so much: several decades of learning and experience, of theory and practice, all lost with the passing of the man. It is difficult to explain outside the academic world how long it takes to nurture a scholar.

But we lost not just the benefit of Leonard’s mind, but of his heart as well. I stayed quiet through those acupuncture sessions decades ago, but I have since learned through friends that he was the quintessential “people’s scientist” who expressed his nationalist commitment through his learning and expertise—“red and expert,” in the jargon of those days. In one of the tributes to him, I’ve come across the account of his fellow scientist about how, during a climb in the mountains of Northern Luzon, Leonard slipped and fell. He had his camera and laptop on him, but the first thing he uttered was, “*Ang mga specimens!*” A true scientist, a true academic indeed.

Agham’s Dr. Tapang laments: “The loss of a scientist like Leonard Co who has stayed in the country despite other opportunities abroad is saddening but the circumstances of his death makes it doubly worse.” We doubly grieve for the scholarly world that one who would serve the nation through the way of the mind would suffer and fall through the way of war.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Book of manners in Visayan

The 18th-century book of manners in Visayan by Fr. Pedro de Estrada has more rules for women than men and is worth a second look. Many of the rules we find funny or even ridiculous in the 21st century. This book of manners does not only give us a glimpse into Visayan life in the 18th century but also a look into the mind of this Spanish Jesuit who was concerned about sex, purity and virginity of both men and women.

What makes the work quaint for us today is the way Father Estrada made the rules clear by comparing actions and people with animals, insects and plants. For example: “When you wake up in the morning, do not roll on yourself like an earthworm, do not wriggle like a snake that is crawling on the ground, but get up right away, make the Sign of the Cross and thank God that he has saved you from the danger of that night.”

Many Spanish missionaries thought Filipinos were promiscuous because they bathed every day unlike people from Europe who bathed rarely because being naked in the water was an occasion for sin or maybe a hot bath in the winter was really a chore. Estrada advised that upon waking: “Bathe yourself if necessary. If not wash your hands and your face, for it is not good to see hands that look like the paws of a monkey and a body that is black as coal.”

When walking in the street your eyes should be modest and trained on the ground you tread: “Your head should be neither bowed nor held high like a chicken when drinking, do not look up at the windows of the house as if you were searching for bees, do not bend your head to one side or another as if a glowworm entered it, do not open your eyes wide to look around, or keep your head like a weather cock. Your shoulder should not be slumped as if under the burden of fishes for sale. Your dress should not be allowed to trail as if it were a broken wing.”

Boys were told to avoid crowded places, chatting with women and petting: “Purity should be valued and appreciated, and if you are a young man, you should take care and avoid occasions that will lead you to commit sin. Try to avoid everything that will lead you near or cause you to do obscene things. Idleness and loafing around, visiting houses especially at night without necessity, being over curious or talking obscene things, and too much desire for petting, all of these you should avoid.

“Do not eat or drink more than what is necessary. Mingling and chatting with women are a subtle trap to lead one to evil. Avoid places where crowds usually gather, and also pleasure places, dancing halls, gambling places, the cockpits, bars and similar places where time, money and conscience are only wasted. Do not indulge in gossiping and going around with other men who are ill-mannered because you might become like them, and they will invite you to perform obscene and scandalous acts that will drive you to perdition. This has happened to many men.”

Women especially young ones were particularly at risk, and Estrada warned: “It is during [adolescence] when a girl is careless especially in her conduct and behavior; therefore you should take care so that you will not fall into temptations. Purity is appreciated and it is very important; it should be so highly esteemed that one must choose to lose everything rather than destroy this virtue. If you are a good and serious girl you should take care that you do not lose your virginity, because once it is lost it is never recovered. Remember that the young girl who does not keep still, who is flirtatious and fond of going around does not have a good heart.

“Make as a model for a virtuous girl the good



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

and upright St. Ines and St. Philomena or others who refused to accept suitors because they preferred purity to worldly honors, and gave up their lives to their enemies who would rob them of this virginity. Idleness, curiosity, gifts and love letters win the grace of every girl and will encourage them to be with men, chat with them, or be friendly with them because it is believed that they are innocent pastimes and there are no bad intentions

with them. Ah, these are the sources of scandals. It is a pity for the young girls and the old ones who believe in these excuses of folly.

“Do not be over careful or proud of your body or follow the fashion which is not proper for your position. Avoid the desire to be petted and do not use dresses that are transparent, short, or too wide because it will call the attention of people and it is bad. Food and drinks should be taken moderately by a young girl because if taken in excess they will make her an easy prey for temptation.

“Going to other houses, walking alone in solitary places, gossiping, making friends, and joking with men are ugly things to do. Attending gatherings, dances or gambling places, are bad habits. How many girls were led astray because of these! They believed that these are only amusements but in fact they are the snares of the world.”

I don’t think there were that many sexual predators in the 18th-century Visayas, and I will leave Rina David and Mike Tan to draw more from the above texts. Books of manners should be studied more closely to show the “civilizing process” we underwent in four centuries of Spanish rule.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



FUNDRAISING PRIZES

Members of the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association arrange the prizes for the Thanksgiving Raffle held Tuesday outside the association’s gift shop. The money raised in the group’s main fundraising activity is used to buy supplies and materials needed at the island’s only hospital.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



REBATE PROGRAM

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan congratulates Alex Aguon Aldan for being the first recipient of the Energy Star Rebate Program. Aldan received a \$300 voucher to replace his old refrigerator through the rebate program funded by the CNMI Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



NEW SHEFA BOARD MEMBER

Former Customs Division director Joe C. Mafnas is sworn in by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores while his wife and son look on. Mafnas was confirmed to the board of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation in a unanimous vote Tuesday morning at the House of Representatives’ chamber

MARK RABAGO



CHRISTMAS TREE

Workers from the Department of Public Works and inmates at the Department of Corrections pose in front of the 30-foot Christmas tree that now stands at the center of the parking lot of the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The tree was officially lit yesterday, signifying the start of the holiday season in the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROCLAMATION SIGNING

Over 40 officers from the Department of Public Safety led by commissioner Santiago Tudela witness acting governor Eloy S. Inos sign Tuesday on Capital Hill a proclamation designating December as Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. DPS’ Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention campaign will be from Nov. 29, 2010 to Jan. 3, 2011—essentially covering the Christmas season.

MARK RABAGO



RAFFLE DRAW

Rotarian Ben Babauta calls out the winners for the raffle draw during Rotary Club’s Thanksgiving celebration with the *man’amko* last Nov. 23.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



WSR EDUCATION AWARDEES

William S. Reyes Elementary School awardees are seen here flanked by WSR principal Naomi Nishimura, vice principal Marji Pangelinan and WSR PTSA officials led by president Janice Tenorio and PAC officer/teacher Dorina Salavarria. Former WSR principal Lynette Villagomez, who is now at the PSS central office, is also in the photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy birthday to Sheerena “Te” Cruz and Niana “Cupcake” Dela Cruz. We hope you both enjoy your special day and its time to party it up! We love you guys! From the Pew Pews and your *familia*!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



William S. Reyes Elementary School awardees Divina Dela Cruz (in black shirt) is teacher of the year; Herman Villagomez, teacher aide of the year; Josie Mikel, administrative support staff of the year; Laureto Pulido, maintenance support staff of the year; and Kim Concepcion, counselor of the year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

By TED PHILLIPS
NEWSDAY

Fresh off the jam-packed Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade route, the Hewitt family from Hempstead, Long Island, by way of Nashville, Tenn., was still buzzing about the procession of bands, floats and famous faces as they waited in Penn Station for the train ride home.

"We were pretty pumped up," said Lyndi Hewitt, 33, a sociology professor at Hofstra University who braved the chilly weather and somewhat controlled chaos along with her husband, Matt Corzine, and their daughter Ellie, 5.

Seeing the parade in person was always a dream, Lyndi Hewitt said. After the family moved from Nashville to Long Island last January, she made it a goal for them.

"I was a little choked up at the beginning when it first started," Hewitt said. "For me, there



The Kung Fu Panda Balloon floats through Times Square during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.

Families abuzz with excitement after seeing Macy's parade

wasn't one part better than another. ... It was just being there with the kids and all the excitement and the tall buildings."

The Hewitts were among the tens of thousands who lined the streets along the route for the 84th version of the famous parade.

Some people saw the procession out their apartment windows, while others hopped on the Long Island Rail Road or told sleepy tales of early morning and overnight bus rides from Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

The crowd at West 66th Street and Central Park West roared when a Spider-Man balloon passed. "It's Spider-Man!" kids shouted.

Though overcast all morning, the rains held off until the end of the parade.



Children call out to actress and singer Miranda Cosgrove as she rides by on a float during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.

Balloon newcomers Kung Fu Panda and Diary of a Wimpy Kid were crowd favorites, as was Buzz Lightyear.

The parade kicked off with Snoopy at 9 a.m. at 77th Street and Central Park West by the Museum of Natural History, where the giant helium balloons where inflated Wednesday.

Before the festivities, Penn Station was abuzz with families

coming in from New Jersey and Long Island.

For the second straight year, Paula and Eric Steinberg of Setauket, Long Island, made the trek into Manhattan with their two grandchildren.

The boys, Aaron Marasia, 7, and Zach Marasia, 4, looked forward to seeing the large balloons, they said, and the Kool-Aid Man "balloonicle"—a bal-



The Kai Kai and Kiki balloons designed by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami make their way across 42nd Street during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday Nov. 25, 2010 in New York.

loon and vehicle combined.

"Their parents are at home making Thanksgiving dinner for everyone while we're out. What better place to be than at the parade," said Eric Steinberg, 62, a retired school teacher.

Lorraine and Mike Vultaggio of Manorville, Long Island, and the couple's three children—Michael, 15, Joey, 12, and Caitlan, 10—said they were regulars as they headed out from the station to a find a chunk of pavement they could claim for the parade duration.

"We go every year; I've been going since I was a kid," said Lorraine Vultaggio, 40. "It's just a lot of entertainment. It's a nice time."

No magic needed to enjoy butterbeer at home

By ALISON LADMAN
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No need to travel to Hogsmeade (or to Universal Orlando) to get a taste of Harry Potter's butterbeer. Universal isn't giving out its recipe, but we've created an easy version of the formerly fictional drink made famous by the young wizard.



A home made version of Butterbeer is seen in this June 28, 2010 photo.

BUTTERBEER

Start to finish: 1 hour (10 minutes active)

Servings: 4

1 cup light or dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons water
6 tablespoons butter
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cider vinegar
3/4 cup heavy cream, divided
1/2 teaspoon rum extract
Four 12-ounce bottles cream soda

In a small saucepan over medium, combine the brown sugar and water. Bring to a gentle boil and cook, stirring often, until the mixture reads 240 F on a candy thermometer.

Stir in the butter, salt, vinegar and 1/4 heavy cream. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

Once the mixture has cooled, stir in the rum extract.

In a medium bowl, combine 2 tablespoons of the brown sugar mixture and the remaining 1/2 cup of heavy cream. Use an electric mixer to beat until just thickened, but not completely whipped, about 2 to 3 minutes.

To serve, divide the brown sugar mixture between 4 tall glasses (about 1/4 cup for each glass). Add 1/4 cup of cream soda to each glass, then stir to combine. Fill each glass nearly to the top with additional cream soda, then spoon the whipped topping over each.



Yuri Van Singh, 6, from Maryland, left, waves as the SpongeBob SquarePants float approaches by during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010 in New York.

A CHILLY GATHERING! You have 15 seconds to spot two identical snowmen.

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Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend

A STAR IS BORN?

Write the grungy garage guitarist is working on his first gold CD. See if you can solve these five Ladder Puzzles in less than five minutes. In this type of anagram, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed ROCK to STAR in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. BARN to INDOOR
2. TAIL to GOAT
3. DULL to WISE
4. FARE to WELL
5. MARK to BROWN

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A TEN-SECOND TEST!

Here's a quickie challenge! If you divide 60 by one-half and then add 15 to the result, what will the total be?

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LINK UPS!

Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was comedian-turned-U.S. Senator Al Franken who made the following sage observation: “Mistakes are a part of being human. Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it’s a fatal mistake, which, at least, others can learn from.”
- Those who study such things say that 1 percent of the world’s lizard species have no males. The females reproduce by parthenogenesis, which produces offspring that are clones of their mothers.
- Amazon’s Kindle, Barnes and Noble’s Nook, Sony’s eReader—it seems that everywhere you look these days people are reading onscreen. You may not realize, however, just how long digital books have been around. The first e-book was manually typed into a computer way back in 1971, when Michael S. Hart, the founder of Project Gutenberg, chose the Declaration of Independence to be the first literature so digitized.
- A woman in Tennessee was once arrested for biking while intoxicated—and she was on a stationary bike at the gym at the time.

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, if you’re like the average American, you drink 22.7 gallons of coffee every year. The surprising thing about that statistic isn’t how much it is, though—it’s how little. It seems that in the 1940s, Americans were drinking twice that amount of java.
- If you look at the innards of a Boeing 747 airplane, you’ll find a whopping 171 miles of wiring.
- If you consider surface area covered rather than population, the world’s largest city is in Inner Mongolia, where Hulunbuir covers more than 160,000 square miles.

Thought for the Day: “Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.”—Laurens Van der Post

MAGIC MAZE

PIECES OF VARIOUS ITEMS

X G U X U O M I E A W S P L I
E A X T O N I G C Z W T O N J
G D A X U R O L B C N U B J G
D A X V S P N K I T U F C A X
V S Q O I J H E C A G B X V I
R P N L E J R H P F G N F P D
B Y X C V A I D O R E P E O K
O M I K L J G F R E T S U I C
D I B S L C Z X D A W F I L O
S R Q O A N M K N U H L J O L
I G F D B C A P I R I S Y D B

Link the letters in the maze to form words. The words are: HALL, BLOCK, BUNCH, CUP, CUSTY, CURE, DOLOP, DROP, HUNK, LENGTH, NUGGET, SHARD, SLAB, SLICE, SINO.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to solve all the figures given at the bottom and right hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

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Think twice before adopting a pet

DEAR PAW’S CORNER: Thank you for printing Dori’s view on pet adoption in your column. I have been in the animal rescue business for many years and have 10 “unadoptables” (now quite senior and living the life of Riley). Dori is so right, and I applaud her for her ability to state her position so clearly. I hope many of your readers got it. I have the results of poor choices—lucky for me because they are so dear, but they had to go through so much, which is very sad.—Pam Y., Lewiston, Calif.

DEAR PAM: Pam, thank you for the update and for taking in the “unadoptables”—pets that, in many cases, have behavioral or health issues that their former owners couldn’t deal with. People who are interested in purchasing or adopting a pet must do their homework before making the leap, especially if they have no prior experience. It’s not enough just to read up on the breed of dog or cat you’re interested in, their traits and behavior (although this also is a must). You have to take into account the impact on your lifestyle and your bank account.

Pet care costs money, so you must be prepared for routine veterinary examinations—typically annual—and regular vaccinations, at least one of which, rabies, is required by law in most cities and states. And you must have the ability to pay for unexpected illnesses.

Caring for a pet takes time. A pet



becomes part of the family—so much so that pets who are abandoned often suffer irreversible emotional damage. Are you ready to take your dog out at 6 a.m., potty train him and spend an hour each day teaching or reinforcing basic obedience skills? Can you handle a cat that yowls late at night, or has soiling issues outside the litter box? You may not know how to handle everything that comes up, but you must be prepared before getting a pet to take time out and learn to really care for that pet.

Looking for more pet advice and information? Check out pawscorner.com online! Send your pet questions to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Ants on a log

Fall means packing lunches, fixing snacks after school and preparing treats for outdoor weekend adventures. Enjoy this whimsical, tasty and “good for you” traditional treat whenever and wherever you and your kids have a snack attack. In fact, your school-age kids will enjoy preparing it themselves for the family.

Be assured, you won’t have to fight the vegetable wars on this one. Using fresh, crisp celery, it’s a winner all the way around. Plus, the basic recipe and all the variations taste so good, you’ll enjoy inviting these “ants” to the table!

Here’s the stuff you’ll need for six snacks:

- 2 stalks of long, crisp celery with ends trimmed
- 6 tablespoons of creamy or chunky peanut butter
- 30-35 raisins

Here’s the fun:

1. Wash the celery well and let it dry.
2. Use a table knife to fill the hollow side of each celery stalk with peanut butter.
3. Arrange raisins on top of the peanut butter to resemble ants scampering about on a log. An adult should cut each log into 3 pieces with a sharp knife.

Extra ideas:

- Invite other critters to the log and use dried cranberries; chopped, dried apricots; or sunflower seeds in addition to or instead of the raisins.
- If you are allergic to peanuts, you may still enjoy this snack by substituting the peanut butter with hummus or cream cheese in a variety of flavors.
- It’s fun to stretch your imagination. When I used small-curd cottage cheese instead of peanut butter, the “ants” looked like they were crawling on a

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



snow-covered log! Extra “Kitchen Talk” tips: While you and your kids prepare this healthy treat, tell your kids what your favorite snack was when you were their age. Did you make Ants on a Log, too? Talk about the activities you did after school and what your favorite subjects were in school.

Donna Erickson’s award-winning series “Donna’s Day” is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna’s Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is “Donna Erickson’s Fabulous Funstuff for Families.”

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Life & Style

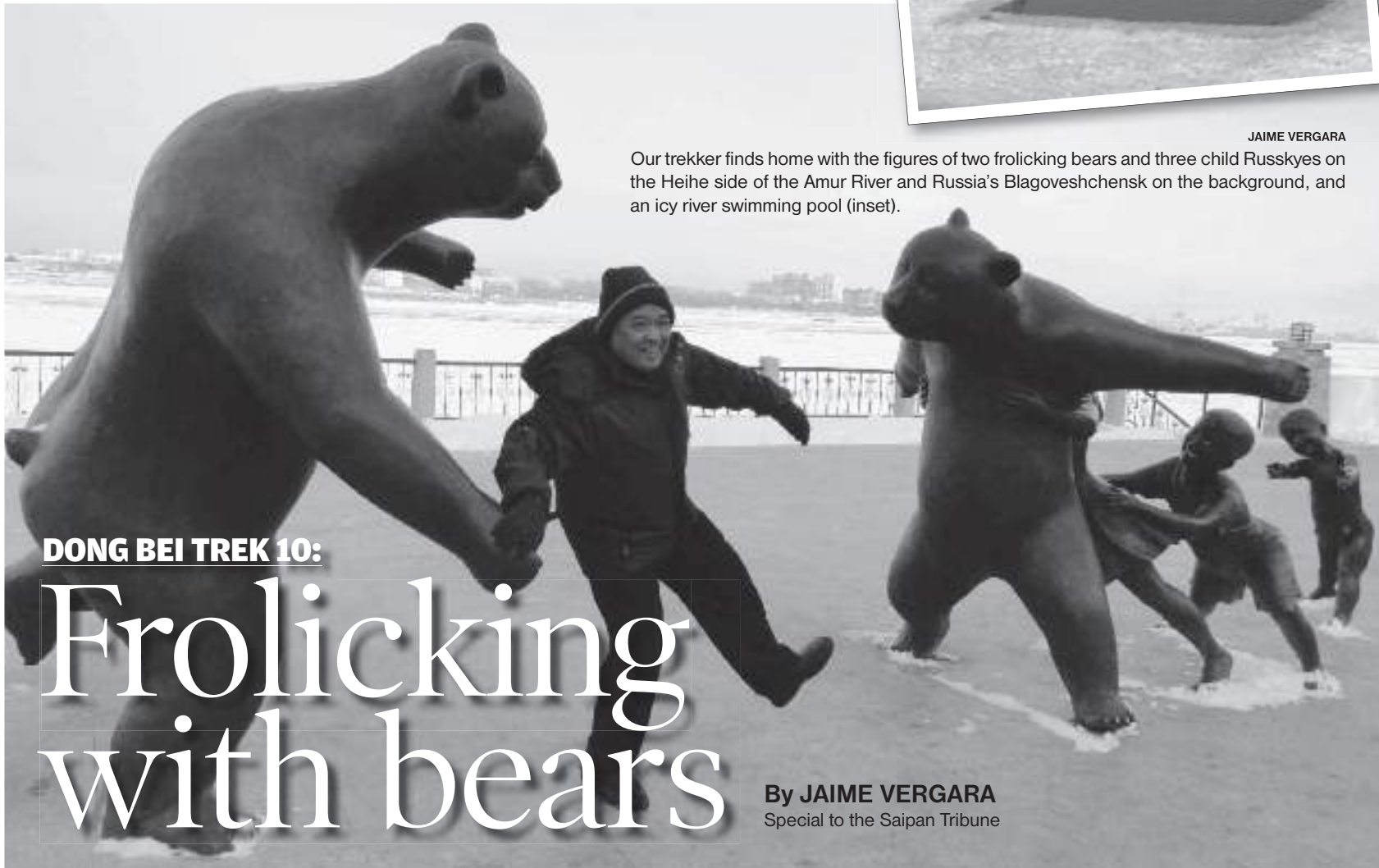
Right next to the Nationality House where Hu Jintao and wife Liu Yongqing (classmates at Tsinghua University and professional colleagues prior to Hu's political ascendancy) would billet the Obamas is a massive statue of a woman lifting up a child in pride and celebration. The two-character *Mu Qin* (mother) marking the sculpture represents *inter alia* the source of life and name for the province, *Heilongjiang*, aka Amur River; it is very telling about the culture's affinity to nature and its forces.

Western cartoonists represent Russians as bears, usually in a pejorative sense of a burly beer-gutted, pot-bellied Paul Bunyan with a vaudevillian tragicomic innocence of a Fred Simpson. Along the Amur River promenade are statues of five figures—a Papa and Mama bear who I named Ivan and Katrina, with three children, a girl hanging on to Mama bear I called Marushka, and two boys right behind her, Igor and Boris. This was my favored Russyan statue at the park where in a rare two hours of sun and blue skies, Mother Nature was kind enough to give us a break from the cold.

Snow had pretty much defined the ambience of this sojourn in Heihe. The place was blanketed by snow the day I arrived and I was pleasantly surprised to see couples—male and female—working as a team scraping the tamped snow on sidewalks and streets.

I ran into a retired travel agent with basic English proficiency driving an unmarked taxi outside the train station, meeting travelers and offering local accommodations. Because he spoke recognizable English (Russian and Putunghua are the native tongues) and guaranteed a taxi flat charge of 5 Rmb (less than a dollar), I consented to his offered assistance. A former officer in the Army, he explained that since I did not have the requisite national I.D., I could not check-in to the inexpensive hostels. He said that if the hotel he was taking me to offered a lower rate than the published one as long as I did not require a receipt, he would look the other way. Screwing government revenue seems to be a universal pastime!

As we previously wrote, Changshun in neighboring Jilin is the automotive center of China. Slip control systems are tested in Heihe, along with cold weather engine performance. But pollution is high in the winter, evident in the photos I took of Blagoveshchensk's skyline during the two-hour clear sky window of opportunity. We've hammered the fact that China uses tons of coal but to its credit, it is investing heavily in carbon capture technology, inviting others to do the same in the upcoming Cancun UN Conference to follow up the Kyoto Protocol.



JAIME VERGARA

Our trekker finds home with the figures of two frolicking bears and three child Russkies on the Heihe side of the Amur River and Russia's Blagoveshchensk on the background, and an icy river swimming pool (inset).

DONG BEI TREK 10:

Frolicking with bears

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

I planned in the late '60s, after finishing graduate school in the United States, to take the Paris train to St. Petersburg on to Moscow, and then get on the Trans-Siberian rail to Vladivostok, catch a ferry to Japan and return to Pea Eye to begin a professional career. I got married instead, dropped out of school, and ended up cleaning out some ancient cobwebs in my mind. The journey has been an unconventional one ever since.

When I discovered that the needed Russian visa to cross the border was not readily available in Heihe, I resigned to the fact that sighting the Trans-Siberian rail will have to wait another day. I received these words from a Suihua University grad who was eager to exercise her dormant memory of six years of English studies, and is currently learning Russian at Amur State University:

"You'll regret going through the process of going to Russia from Heihe, and if you get there, you'll regret it some more." Though not evident from a distance except at night when Heihe is gaudily carnival lit while Russia across the river is dark, it appears that the frequent cross traffic is of Russkies to China, more than the other way around.

Growing up with the "eat your dinner, dear; think of the starving kids in China" words that my mother picked up from the missionaries, I really had this stereotyped image of poor frontier China in mind. I suspect I have the same with regards to far eastern Russia but mistakenly more so of northeast China. With the visa contradiction, I dropped the intent and explored Heihe instead. China of today is not just modernizing; it is thoroughly modern. The

Manchuria of Moscow and the Manchukuo of Japan are long gone. *Dong Bei* is alive and polluted like the rest of the planet in the 21st century.

The big surprise was being confronted by the piped music at the downtown shopping promenade. Beethoven's *Fur Elise* is universal, and Kenny G had done traditional Chinese music in his soprano saxophone so hearing his standard played in public was no surprise, even a couple of pop tunes from Whitney Houston and an unfamiliar star did not raise a hair, but when the theme to the movie *Chariots of Fire* was played, I was bowled over with emotions since this was our processional and recessionary music during the 6th Grade ending ceremonies at SVES. Already I sensed, I had not wandered too far from home! This proved true as

I frolicked at the park by the river. Then the penultimate symbol of the "craziness" of the area emerged: a swimming pool (inset) carved out of the ice on the Amur Oblast where Putin's bears and Hu's pandas out-machismo each other in plunging into the icy waters to radically charge their metabolisms!

In an appropriate bookend, the snow dusting last night that sent us off back to Shenyang was pristine to the naked eye, though our particular knowledge of carbon residues made us aware of the heavy toxicity in the air. Heihe is a global city, *mu qin*, warts, and all.

"Going home?" my ex-travel acquaintance hollered when he saw me at the train station. I smiled and without telling him I was not too far from home, I responded loudly with my only Russian: "Da."

WASHINGTON (AP)—Yoko Ono and her son, Sean Lennon, are joining a national oral history project that urges people to take time the day after Thanksgiving for a National Day of Listening with their friends and loved ones.

The recorded conversation between mother and son about their lives will be broadcast Friday as part of the StoryCorps segment on NPR's "Morning Edition." Organizers said Ono and her son find similarities between their childhoods.

This is the third year for the National Day of Listening, a project that encourages people to record interviews with friends or family members about their lives. New participants this year also include U.S. Olympic athletes and staff at the Smithsonian's National Museum

Yoko Ono interviews son for 'Day of Listening'

of the American Indian as part of Native American Heritage Day on Friday.

KJ Jacks, 29, who has worked in special events since the museum opened in 2004, said it was a chance to talk about the diversity among Native Americans, including her own experience growing up near Denver. She said it's important for people to know Native people are part of everyday life and that "we don't all walk around wearing buckskin dresses."

"My father is full-blood Cherokee. I didn't meet him until I was 16 years old. So my mom tried to get me interested in Indian culture when I was young, and I wasn't having any of it—I

was rebelling," she said in her interview with a co-worker.

Jacks explained that she grew up with a single mother of Irish decent. It wasn't until she came to work for the museum that she wanted to learn more about her Cherokee heritage and reconnect with her father.

"I feel like I have a very different background than a lot of people who work in the museum, a lot of the Native people, because I didn't grow up in it," she said after her story was recorded. "I think it will be a good way to just understand how people work."

Free interview guides and sample questions are available online or

through an iPhone app from the New York-based StoryCorps project.

Former President George W. Bush helped jump-start the Day of Listening in 2008 before leaving the White House by sitting down for an interview with his sister, Dorothy Walker Bush Koch.

Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected more than 30,000 interviews across the country. The recordings are archived at the Library of Congress.

Founder Dave Isay said that during a time of much political and cultural division, listening to one another can remind people "how much more unites us than divides us."

Curators at the American Indian museum may consider a larger oral history effort and are encouraging indigenous people to record their stories.

The museum wants to have Native American communities more involved in developing its content to help redefine how they are represented, director Kevin Gover said in an interview he recorded for StoryCorps.

He also showed how the interviews can reveal very personal details. Gover, who is of Pawnee decent, spoke about his life growing up with an alcoholic father and his own struggles with alcoholism.

"In my career as a drinker, I still have memories that I shudder over, things that I did, and I just wish I could take them back," he said. "So that's reason enough for me never to drink again."

Kanye West, Kung Fu Panda star at NYC parade

NEW YORK (AP)—A high-kicking Kung Fu Panda and a diary-toting Wimpy Kid joined the giant balloon lineup as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade unfolded Thursday, drawing tens of thousands of spectators to the annual extravaganza on a chilly, overcast morning.

Emily Rowlinson, a tourist from London, squealed and snapped pictures with her cell phone as the massive Smurf balloon floated by a packed sidewalk along the route.

"We don't have anything like this in England," she exclaimed. "We have parades. We don't have any sort of huge, floating beasts. It's very cool."

As millions more watched the live broadcast on television, revelers gathered nationwide for other parades in cities such as Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia. The parades headline observances across the nation that also feature football and family dinners with too much food on the table.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, President Barack Obama called on Americans to help each other through tough times.

"This is not the hardest Thanksgiving America has ever faced," Obama said. "But as long as many members of our American family are hurting, we've got to look out for one another."

He later telephoned ten U.S. servicemen and women stationed around the world to thank them for their service and sacrifice. He wished them and their families a happy Thanksgiving, before joining his own for the holiday.

The Macy's parade featured



Members of the New York Police Department stand by as the Shrek balloon makes its way across 42nd Street during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010 in New York.

an eclectic lineup of entertainers including Kanye West, Gladys Knight and Colombian rocker Juanes. The Broadway casts of "American Idiot" and "Elf" performed, along with marching bands from across the United States. Perched on her father's shoulders, 16-month-old Stella Laracque wriggled and danced with excitement as SpongeBob SquarePants, Hello Kitty, Shrek and other beloved figures wafted past her.

"She doesn't really know the characters, but she's loving it," said her father, Mike Laracque of Manhattan.

Another new balloon was Virginia O'Hanlon, the 8-year-old girl whose letter to the editor

elicited the response, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

Santa Claus closed the parade as always. A cheer erupted as he passed by on his sleigh, shaking his enormous belly.

Returning balloons included Pillsbury Doughboy and Spider-Man—the last with a new fan in Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He said in a CBS interview that he had traditionally favored Snoopy, but after the Marvel Entertainment character was involved in a recent event promoting city services for job-seekers, "Spidey is my new favorite."

Surveying the scene with four of her relatives, Emily Hine confessed that she'd initially been loath to come from Boyertown,

Pa., about 100 miles southwest of Manhattan.

"I was dreading the crowds, but I'm enjoying it more than I anticipated," she said, adding that the balloons are bigger than she'd imagined from watching previous years' parades on TV. "It's more up-close and personal."

Other celebrities at the parade included India Arie, Jessica Simpson, Kylie Minogue, Keri Hilson, Arlo Guthrie and Miranda Cosgrove.

Standing on a stepladder her family had brought from Mamaroneck, a New York City suburb, 9-year-old Melissa Machado was thrilled to spot Victoria Justice, the star of Nickelodeon's "Victorious."

Black Eyed Peas to perform Super Bowl halftime

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Black Eyed Peas will be the featured halftime performer at the Super Bowl.

The Grammy award-winning group will perform Feb. 6 at Cowboys Stadium. The announcement was made Thursday during the Dallas Cow-

boys' game against the New Orleans Saints.

Since forming in 1995, The Black Eyed Peas have sold more than 28 million albums worldwide and nearly 31 million digital tracks. Their new album, "The Beginning," is set for release Tuesday.

Last year's featured performer was The Who. Other halftime acts have included U2, the Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Paul McCartney and Prince.

The Super Bowl halftime show is sponsored by Bridgestone.

'Darth Vader' costume can't find new owner at sale



A visitor looks at a Darth Vader costume from the epic 'Star Wars' movie anthology on display during the 'Popular Culture: Film and Entertainment' sale at Christie's auction house in London, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.

LONDON (AP)—Auctioneers overestimated the power of the dark side.

An original Darth Vader costume from a "Star Wars" movie did not sell at auction Thursday when no bidder offered to pay the reserve price, Christie's auctioneers said. The outfit—a jet-black helmet, mask and armor—was expected to sell for between 160,000 pounds and 230,000 pounds (\$250,000 to \$365,000). The reserve price is confidential but generally it is just under the minimum expected price.

Christie's said bidding stopped at 150,000 pounds.

The costume is thought to have been made for "The Empire Strikes Back," the second film in George Lucas's sci-fi series, released in 1980.

The auction house's head of popular culture, Neil Roberts, said the costume is one of the most iconic in the history of cinema.

Christie's did not name the seller, identified only as an American private collector.

Meanwhile, a gun used in an advertising campaign for a James Bond movie was sold for more than 10 times its estimated value at Thursday's auction of movie memorabilia.

The Walther air pistol held by Bond actor Sean Connery in the poster for the 1963 film, "From Russia With Love," was sold for 277,250 pounds (\$437,206) to an unidentified telephone bidder, Christie's said.

Mom who lost daughter's iPod should replace it posthaste

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13, and about six months ago my mom confiscated my iPod because I misbehaved. When it was time to get my iPod back, my mom couldn't find it. We have been searching everywhere in the house for it—but it's gone.



Dear Abby

My iPod is very important to me because almost every cent I earned went into buying the music and applications. The amount of money I spent is greater than the cost of the iPod itself. I asked my mother to buy me a new one to replace the one she lost, but she said it was my fault that it was taken away, and she could not keep track of where it was.

I think it is unfair that my mom lost something I spent so much on. Who is responsible for buying a new one?

MUSIC-STARVED IN OLYMPIA, WASH.

DEAR MUSIC-STARVED: Good parents model responsible behavior for their children; that's how children learn. You misbehaved and you were punished for it. If the agreement was that you would get your iPod back, and your mother lost it, then she should replace it—including the money you invested in loading it. She should be ashamed of herself for trying to weasel out of it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Ethan," and I have graduated from a prestigious four-year university. We have stable incomes and bright futures ahead of us, and we're planning and saving for a wedding within the next two years.

The problem is, we feel like oddballs in our group of friends—ostracized and shunned. They feel our level of commitment is too great for our ages and that it's wrong to want to marry so young. My friends constantly say bad things about Ethan, and I'm tired of defending our relationship. Is there something wrong with being committed? What can I say to my friends the next time they put down my relationship?

YOUNG BUT SERIOUS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR YOUNG BUT SERIOUS: You and Ethan are out of school. Planning a wedding in two years doesn't appear to be rushing into anything. You do not have to "defend" your relationship to anyone.

Tell your friends you feel lucky to have found "the one" so early, and that you wish them luck in their own searches. Tell them that when they put Ethan down, it shows a lack of respect for your judgment. And start looking for other couples with whom to socialize so you're not so dependent upon this group. If they are uncomfortable with the idea of including a "committed couple" in their circle, then you and Ethan may have outgrown them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I wear colored contact lenses that make my blue eyes appear much more defined. When I wear blue clothing it makes my eyes stand out even more.

Many people comment on my eye color, but I find questions such as "Are they real?" or "They must be contacts" to be rude. I would never ask someone with nice hair if it was dyed or a wig.

Have you any suggestions on what I should say in response to these comments?

VERY BLUE-EYED IN INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR VERY BLUE-EYED: What the people are conveying through their questions and comments is that you are not fooling anybody. Because your natural eye color is blue and you are wearing contact lenses, answer yes to both questions. However, you do not need to elaborate further.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Chimney fire damages Fleiss' Nevada home

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP)—A Thanksgiving Day chimney fire has ravaged part of the Nevada home of former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss.

The 44-year-old Fleiss tells KVVU-TV she was at the house in Pahrump, west of Las Vegas, when the fire broke out, but was unharmed.

KVVU-TV reports the fire started in a chimney that lacked a "spark arrestor," a device that prevents sparks from escaping the fireplace.

Fire officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

It's unclear how much damage the house sustained, but a video released by celebrity website TMZ shows flames flowing from the roof.

Fleiss once ran a high-priced Los Angeles prostitution ring providing models-turned-prostitutes to wealthy clients. She moved to Pahrump in late 2005, several years after serving 21 months in a California prison for money laundering, tax evasion and attempted pandering.

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Johnson, Smith lead Hawks to easy win



ATLANTA (AP)—Joe Johnson scored 21 points, Josh Smith added 20 with 14 rebounds and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Washington Wizards 116-96 on Thursday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Al Horford finished with 15 points and 13 boards for the Hawks, who won their 11th straight over Washington. They have lost seven of nine overall.

Gilbert Arenas scored 21 and Nick Young added 20 for the Wizards, who have yet to beat a team with a winning record this season and still seek their first road victory.

Washington rookie John Wall, the NBA's No. 1 overall draft pick, finished with 10 points, missing his first seven shots from the field and failing to score until his runner made it 69-50 midway through the third quarter.

The game's outcome was all but decided after Arenas' 3-pointer cut the lead to eight with 5 minutes left in the second. Over the next 18 minutes, Washington was outscored 51-22, a run that ended with three free throws by Jamal Crawford.

Washington was held to a season-low 18 points in the first quarter, a welcomed change for a Hawks team that trailed entering the second period in its last four games.

Smith gave the Hawks a 21-point lead midway through the third with a left-handed dunk. Atlanta coach Larry Drew called the play during a timeout, and Johnson responded with a perfectly placed alley-oop pass to Smith, who jumped past Wall for the jam near the right baseline.

Drew rested his starters in the fourth quarter. Wizards coach Flip Saunders did the same except for keeping Arenas in to work with some of Washington's younger players.

Wall, though, sat during the final period. Before returning as a reserve in an overtime win over Philadelphia on Tuesday, Wall missed four games with a sprained left foot.

Wizards forward Andray Blatche left the game in the third and didn't return after colliding with Smith on an offensive rebound attempt and getting poked in both eyes.

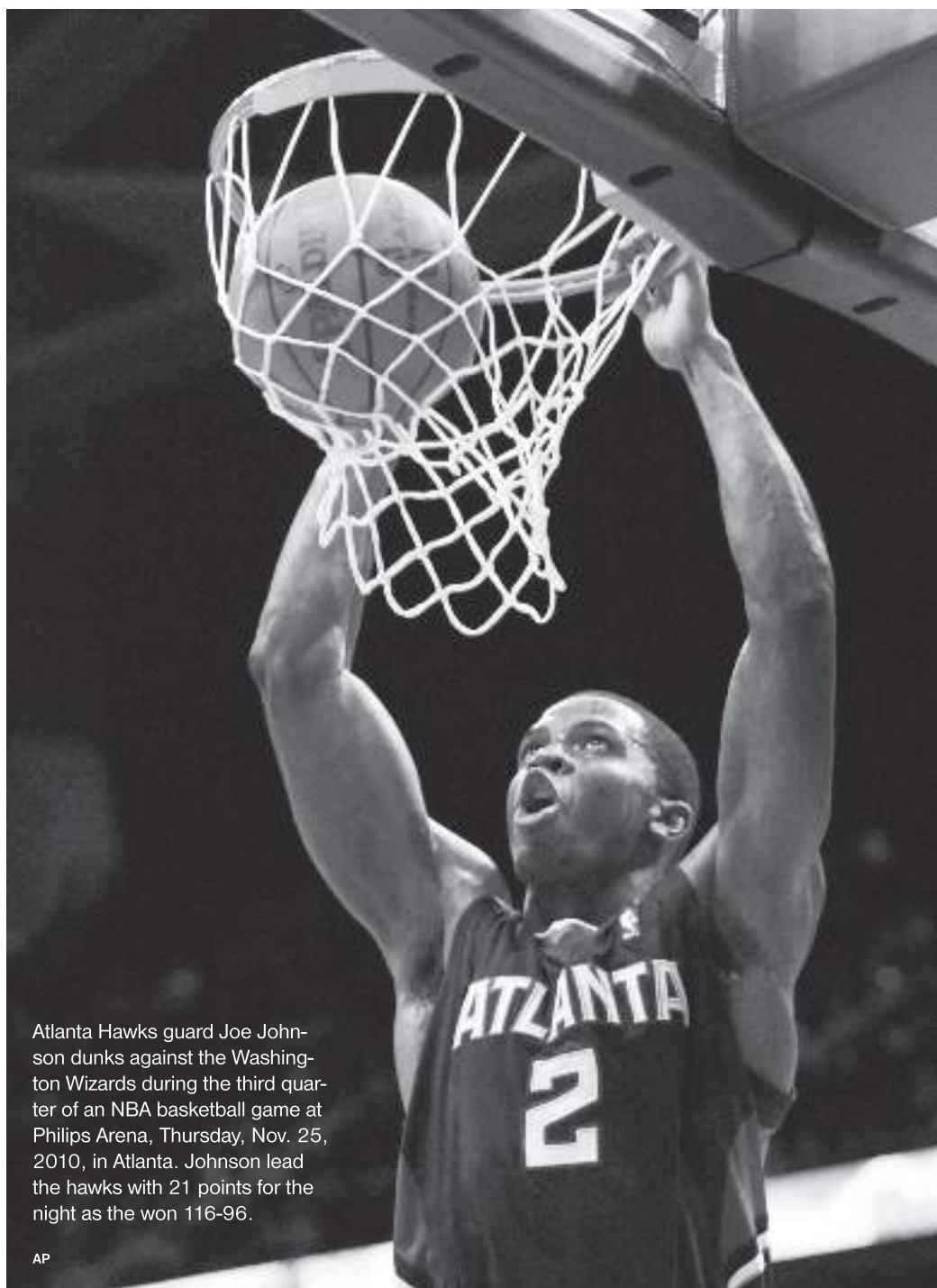
Young, who hit the winning shot against Philadelphia two nights previously, hit his first four shots from the field and finished 8 of 14.

Clippers 100, Kings 82

In Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 28 points and rookie Blake Griffin had 25 points and 15 rebounds for the Los Angeles Clippers, who took full advantage of their new one-two punch to beat the Sacramento Kings 100-82 on Thursday night.

Center Chris Kaman was sidelined for the eighth straight game because of a sprained left ankle and point guard Baron Davis was sidelined for the 12th time in 13 games because of a swollen left knee. But the Clippers, coming off a 99-95 victory over New Orleans on Monday that snapped a nine-game losing streak, posted consecutive wins for the first time since a three-game stretch last February.

Carl Landry scored 18 points for Sacramento, which has lost nine of their last 10 games after a 3-1 start. It was the fifth time this season that the Kings' high-



Atlanta Hawks guard Joe Johnson dunks against the Washington Wizards during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game at Philips Arena, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, in Atlanta. Johnson led the hawks with 21 points for the night as the won 116-96.

AP

point man had fewer than 20. Tyreke Evans, who averaged 23.7 points in his three games against the Clippers last season,

had just eight points and five assists in 37 minutes.

Evans, the 2009-10 rookie of the year, missed his first eight

shots and played more than 25 scoreless minutes before getting the benefit of a goaltending call against DeAndre Jor-

dan on a layup with 4:02 left in the third quarter and the Kings trailing 75-59.

Two games removed from his 44-point, 15-rebound, seven-assist tour de force against the New York Knicks last Saturday at Staples Center, Griffin once again showed the athletic artistry that no doubt will make the Clippers a more attractive team for the television networks to spotlight than in the past - even if they keep losing.

Displaying a pent-up fury that needed to be unleashed after missing all of last season with a knee injury, the former Oklahoma star and first overall pick in the 2009 draft pick shot 7 for 11 from the field. He is averaging 19.3 points and 11.3 rebounds in his first 16 games - including nine double-doubles. The only other players averaging at least 18 points and 11 rebounds are Pau Gasol, Dwight Howard and Kevin Love.

The Clippers extended their 54-50 halftime to 69-56 with a 15-6 run capped by Gordon's finger roll with 6:45 left in the third quarter. Reserve forward Craig Smith helped salt it away midway through the fourth with seven points in a 1:33 span, increasing the margin to 97-74.

Luther Head had 15 points and a season-high seven assists for the Kings. No Sacramento player had more than five assists in any of the team's previous four games, but Head surpassed that total when he set up a short jumper by rookie DeMarcus Cousins with 3:26 left in the second quarter. Cousins, the fifth overall pick in the draft, had seven points and five rebounds in a foul-plagued 25 minutes

NEW YORK (AP)—Over the course of a year, almost everything we knew about Tiger Woods has been turned on its head. He touched new lows, both personal and professional. He lost his wife, his aura, some fans, wheelbarrows of cash and in a sense, every tournament he entered. Even his good name is gone.

Think back to last Thanksgiving and how you whiled away the hours before dinner or the next kickoff, playing whiffle ball or Wii. If you knocked one over the garage, or out of the virtual park and then yelled "I am Tiger Woods!" everyone there would have known in an instant what you meant: You won, or were about to, and with a flourish more often than not.

But now?

It's a tired punchline, recycled so often from morning news until late-night that it's lost any irony and all of its sting. But here's what's still funny about the bit: Despite growing up in front of our eyes, then dominating the screen like no athlete before or since, we still have no idea who

If Woods has answers, he's keeping them to himself



Tiger Woods is. And a year adrift likely has him wondering the same thing.

Woods has tried to explain himself in scripted statements and most recently, a forgettable editorial. He's conducted press conferences and interviews with ground rules, without, and on one occasion, all by himself. He went to rehab. He's tweeting.

But if Woods knows why he did what he did, and more important going forward, how to repair the damage it caused, he still has not shared it with the rest of us.

There's little doubt, though, about what made him great. For all the ways he revolutionized golf—starting earlier, practicing longer and working out harder, always cocooned from distraction by his parents and his handlers—what marked Woods as special from the start was something very old-school.

It was a gift that Nicklaus and Hogan possessed, the same one Jordan, Armstrong, Gretzky, Ruth and precious few others ever shared.

Call it clutch, focus, finding the sweet spot, rising to the occasion, being in the zone—take your pick. In Woods' case, it meant tracing the pendulum of the golf swing over and over and applying exactly the right amount of force or finesse each one called for, no matter what was going on around him. But then, he'd had a lifetime of practice.

Earl Woods understood golf is a solitary game played across the 5 1/2 -inch course between your ears. So that's where he set out to make his son unbeatable. He'd wait until a young Tiger reached the top of his backswing, then jangle the coins in his pocket, or let his golf bag fall with a strategic "thud."

Yet Woods became better at it than Earl ever imagined. All those years later, his son didn't flinch making that same swing

in the middle of an expressway, which is exactly how the fairways must have looked after a night of carousing that would have worn out a porn star, let alone someone with a day job, a wife and two young kids at home.

Until that last part became public, when I thought of Woods, I always imagined the space between his ears filled with white noise for the two seconds it takes the synapses, and then the muscles, to fire in perfect sequence. The resulting blow was so violent, yet so accurate and flush at the moment of impact that it left his peers in awe.

"I see a lot of players who are very good, but never in my entire life (have I) heard the noise that went through his ball when he hit it," Costantino Rocca, who was paired with Woods on the final Sunday of his magical 1997 Masters win, would recall a decade later.

"What a noise! So strong and pure when he hit it."

Every fan who saw Woods

and every guy who played alongside him had a similar story. Not so long ago, when his mastery of the game was so complete it positively spooked his rivals, Stewart Cink mused what they'd find if they sliced Woods open.

"Maybe," he laughed, "nuts and bolts."

That Tiger Woods had a sense of purpose second to none. He always knew where to be and what came next. And as you read this, he's back retooling his swing again, this time with a coach named Sean Foley, who drops references to Copernicus and Newton into everyday conversation even while sounding like some new-age mystic.

"For me, the ultimate easiest golf lesson would be with a mechanical engineer," Foley told Golf Digest earlier this year. "I wouldn't have to change how I personally think about the swing. With Tiger, it wouldn't be over his head, and the material wouldn't be new to him."

It's worth noting that after two previous swing overhauls, with coaches Butch Harmon and Hank Haney, Woods put together two of the most sublime runs the game has seen. And he might need a third to win the five more majors and surpass Nicklaus' career record of 18, the final target Woods set for himself as a boy by taping a page of Jack's accomplishments to his bedroom wall.

But mechanics were hardly the reason Woods became the greatest athlete of his generation, nor will they be again. What made him that was the once-unshakeable belief that life was ordered around him instead of the other way. That made it easy to pull down the shade at any moment he chose, taking so little notice of what was going on in the rest of the world that it made you wonder whether his blood really did run cold.

Woods knows better than that now. And so, to his undying regret, does everyone else. That shade will never go down so easily or so completely again.

Brees, Saints rally to beat Cowboys in thriller

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—As Roy Williams ran toward the end zone, he realized the importance of his breakaway catch-and-run. Just hold onto it, he thought, and the Dallas Cowboys would pull off one of their greatest Thanksgiving comebacks. He even switched the ball from one hand to another to make sure he kept it from the defender in front of him.

The guy behind him changed everything.

Malcolm Jenkins snatched the ball from Williams at the 11, ripping it out so forcefully that it wound up against his own stomach. Drew Brees then quickly drove 89 yards for the touchdown that put New Orleans back ahead with 1:55 left Thursday.

But the drama wasn't done yet in the Saints' 30-27 victory.

Having already overcome a pair of 17-point deficits, the Cowboys moved close enough for David Buehler to try a 59-yard field goal that would've tied it. His kick had plenty of leg, but fluttered just wide to the left with 25 seconds left. New Orleans coach Sean Payton started to call a timeout, which would've given Buehler another chance, but either Payton didn't finish the gesture or the officials didn't see it, so the play stood, and this wild, wacky, thriller was finished.

"The play that Malcolm Jenkins makes late is an effort play, a heart play and it's one of those plays that really inspires everyone on the team," Payton said. "It was a gut-check win."

And a gut-wrenching loss for Dallas.

The Cowboys came in 2-0 under interim coach Jason Garrett, playing like the Super Bowl contenders they were supposed to be instead of the 1-7 cupcakes they turned into under coach Wade Phillips. They made plenty of Phillips-era mistakes to fall behind 17-0 in the first quarter and 20-3 before halftime, then showed the poise and toughness Garrett has instilled by fighting back.

Buehler kicked a 53-yard field goal as the first half ended, Miles Austin went 60 yards on an end around on the second play of the second half and Dallas was back in the game. The Cowboys went ahead 27-23 on Tashard Choice's 1-yard touchdown run with 5:51 left, then Williams caught a short pass and took it 47 yards, following a block from Miles Austin as he approached the end zone.

Williams switched the ball from one hand to another to avoid cornerback Tracy Porter, knowing the Cowboys could stretch the lead, kill some clock or both as long as he didn't fumble. Then, Jenkins grabbed it.

"I lost the ball game," Williams said. "I let my teammates down. I need to fall down. We



New Orleans Saints wide receiver Marques Colston (12) goes up for a pass against Dallas Cowboys cornerbacks Alan Ball (20) and Mike Jenkins (21) during the first half of the NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. The pass fell incomplete.

run the clock down and win the game. I was trying to make a play and they did a good job. It's late in the game. That's the nail in the coffin. We had the momentum going our way. We were there. That was a W. I get tackled, we get in the end zone and we win. I fall down and we win."

Jenkins said he chased the play with only one thought - "get the ball out."

"He didn't see me from the blind side," Jenkins said. "A bad play turned good for us. Not only ripped it out, it just kind of fell in my stomach."

The Saints (8-3) won their fourth straight and fifth in six games. This was their first time playing on the holiday, and it's certainly one their fans will never forget - especially the tens of thousands who were among the crowd of 93,985 at Cowboys Stadium. They made their presence felt, and would love to return the first weekend in February to watch New Orleans try defending its Super Bowl title.

Dallas (3-8) lost for the first time in three games since Garrett became interim coach. This plucky effort shows the impact he's had in such a short time. But if things had gone only slightly different, he would've been the face of two of the greatest Thanksgiving rallies in club history. In 1994, he made a rare start in place of an injured Troy Aikman and took the Cowboys from a 17-3 deficit against Brett Favre and the Packers to a 42-31 victory.

Instead, this game may go down with Leon Lett's snowy gaffe in 1993 as one that got away.

"I think we demonstrated again what we've done the last few weeks - battle and fight,"

Garrett said. "There were a lot of things to be proud of. Guys played with a lot of passion, energy and enthusiasm. ... But you've got to get the bottom line right. We didn't get it done."

Brees took the Saints 80 yards in four plays on the game's opening drive, never even seeing a second down. After defensive lineman Will Smith intercepted a screen, Garrett Hartley kicked a career-best, 50-yard field goal, then Brees led another scoring drive. Chris Ivory ran 3 yards for the first touchdown, 6 yards for the second.

Brees finished 23 of 39 for 352 yards with the winning touchdown and an interception that almost cost New Orleans the game. The ball bounced off the hands of tight end Jimmy Graham and into the hands of Dallas safety Gerald Sensabaugh, leading to Choice's go-ahead score.

Reggie Bush also would've been a goat had New Orleans lost.

After missing eight games with a broken leg, Bush let the first pass thrown his way clang off his shoulder pads and helmet. He later dropped a likely touchdown pass while leading 20-13, then fumbled on a punt return to set up the Cowboys' touchdown got them to 23-20. Saints fans had been screaming "Reg-gie!" before the punt, then Dallas fans tauntingly cheered the same thing both after the fumble and after the ensuing touchdown.

Patriots 45, Lions 24

In Detroit, Tom Brady was perfect on the field and his exit was first class.

Brady threw a season-high four touchdown passes, all in

the second half, and the New England Patriots routed the Detroit Lions 45-24 on Thursday after trailing by 11 late in the second quarter.

"We showed some resiliency, coming out in the second half and playing the way we did when the crowd was into it," Brady said.

Following Brady's brief news conference, the former Michigan star jogged out of Ford Field - limping slightly up a steep ramp - hugged Robert Kraft and got into an idling limo with the team owner behind a police escort.

New England (9-2) remained tied with the the AFC East rival New York Jets - who beat Cincinnati 26-10 on Thursday night - for the NFL's best record, setting up a showdown at home Dec. 6.

"I don't think we're at where we need to be at," Brady said. "But this is a tough group."

No one in the red, white and blue is tougher than Brady.

After taking a ton of shots early in the game, the three-time Super Bowl winner and two-time MVP bounced back to complete 21 of 27 passes for 341 yards with no interceptions, giving him a perfect quarterback rating of 158.3 for the second time in his career.

"He's like a surgeon," Detroit center Dominic Raiola said.

Brady threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Deion Branch early in the fourth quarter after connecting with him on a 79-yarder to tie it at 24. Wes Welker's second TD reception sealed the victory with 6:42 left, putting the Patriots ahead by two TDs and making their double-digit deficit a distant memory.

"When you outscore a team

35-7 in the second half, a lot of things have to go right," New England coach Bill Belichick said.

The Lions (2-9) are used to things going wrong, especially on Thanksgiving.

Detroit has lost a franchise-record seven straight games—by an average of nearly 23 points—in its annual showcase.

"This one is really tough because we gave everybody so much hope," Raiola said. "We were up 14-3, Ford Field was going crazy and then boom, boom, boom."

Brady became the first to have a perfect passer rating this season with a minimum of five attempts, according to STATS LLC. His first perfect game was Oct. 21, 2007, when he threw a career-high six TD passes in a victory over Miami.

"If we give him time, there's nothing he can't do," guard Logan Mankins said. "He's going to find the guy that's open, and he's going to get them the ball. The rest is up to us."

Brady had plenty of help with Welker and Branch through the air and BenJarvus Green-Ellis on the ground.

Green-Ellis ran for two TDs, matching a career high. His second one capped the scoring with 3:14 left and led to several pushing and shoving matches with the frustrated Lions.

Shaun Hill was 27 of 46 for 285 yards with one TD—to Calvin Johnson at the end of the first quarter that put the Lions up 7-3—and two interceptions to rookie cornerback Devin McCourty.

Maurice Morris ran for two TDs, matching his total in two

seasons in Detroit. Morris' first score put Detroit ahead 14-3 with 5:58 left in the first half.

Green-Ellis' 15-yard TD pulled the Patriots within four with 45 seconds left in the second quarter, then they allowed Detroit to drive for a lead-padding field goal to end the first half.

Jets 26, Bengals 10

In East Rutherford, Brad Smith's two long touchdown plays have lifted the New York Jets past the Cincinnati Bengals, 26-10 Thursday night to keep the Jets tied atop the AFC East.

Hours after the New England Patriots beat Detroit to improve to 9-2, the Jets matched them as Smith scored on a 53-yard run two plays into the third quarter, and on an 89-yard kickoff return in the final period. Smith lost a shoe midway through that return, which clinched an eighth straight loss for Cincinnati (2-9).

Santonio Holmes scored on a 13-yard reception from Mark Sanchez after Cincinnati's Andre Caldwell had a punt deflect off him while he was blocking.

The Jets have beaten Cincinnati three times in less than a year, including the 2009 season finale that got them into the playoffs, then in the wild-card game the following week.

Santonio Holmes scored his fourth touchdown in three games on a 13-yard reception from Mark Sanchez after Cincinnati's Andre Caldwell had a punt deflect off him while he was blocking. Sanchez was 16 for 28 for 166 yards with the TD and an interception.

Smith had three carries for 55 yards, a catch for 23 yards and the long kickoff return.

It looked as though New York was headed for yet another frenzied finish after consecutive road overtime victories were followed by getting the winning touchdown Sunday with 10 seconds left against Houston.

But it took New York only two plays to go ahead after halftime. Sanchez hit Holmes for 16 yards, then utilityman Smith used superb blocks by Dustin Keller and D'Brickashaw Ferguson to speed down the left sideline untouched for a 53-yard TD run.

The Jets' defense followed with a three-and-out, but Sanchez gave it back with a terrible pass to linebacker Rey Maualuga. His 11-yard return to the Jets 37 set up the Bengals in good shape, and they were aided by a 15-yard roughing-the-passer call against James Ihdigbo on fourth down.

Faced with another fourth down, Cincinnati sent Aaron Pettrey out for a tying 27-yard field goal, but he was wide left.

Ihdigbo made up for his penalty on the next drive when Steve Weatherford punted and officials ruled it hit Caldwell and Ihdigbo recovered at the 14. Bengals coach Marvin Lewis surprisingly did not challenge the play.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	4	.733	—
New York	8	8	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	6	9	.400	5
New Jersey	5	10	.333	6
Philadelphia	3	12	.200	8

Southeast Division

Orlando	10	4	.714	—
Atlanta	9	7	.563	2
Miami	8	7	.533	2 1/2
Washington	5	9	.357	5
Charlotte	5	10	.333	5 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	8	5	.615	—
Indiana	7	6	.538	1
Cleveland	6	8	.429	2 1/2
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3 1/2
Detroit	5	10	.333	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	13	1	.929	—
New Orleans	11	3	.786	2
Dallas	10	4	.714	3
Memphis	6	9	.400	7 1/2
Houston	4	10	.286	9

Northwest Division

Utah	11	5	.688	—
Oklahoma City	10	5	.667	1/2
Denver	8	6	.571	2
Portland	8	6	.571	2
Minnesota	4	12	.250	7

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	13	2	.867	—
Golden State	7	8	.467	6
Phoenix	7	8	.467	6
Sacramento	4	10	.286	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	3	13	.188	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 116, Washington 96
L.A. Clippers 100, Sacramento 82

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	334	266
N.Y. Jets	9	2	0	.818	264	187
Miami	5	5	0	.500	172	208
Buffalo	2	8	0	.200	213	276

South

Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	268	216
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	220	270
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	257	198
Houston	4	6	0	.400	244	287

North

Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	233	178
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	235	165
Cleveland	3	7	0	.300	192	206
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	225	288

West

Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	243	207
Oakland	5	5	0	.500	238	223
San Diego	5	5	0	.500	274	211
Denver	3	7	0	.300	217	287

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	7	3	0	.700	284	226
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	253	220
Washington	5	5	0	.500	202	245
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	256	301

South

Atlanta	8	2	0	.800	256	192
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	265	197
Tampa Bay	7	3	0	.700	209	206
Carolina	1	9	0	.100	117	252

North

Chicago	7	3	0	.700	191	146
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	252	146
Minnesota	3	7	0	.300	172	226
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	258	282

West

Seattle	5	5	0	.500	185	233
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	177	198
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	188	292
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	160	219

Yesterday's Games

New England 45, Detroit 14
New Orleans 30, Dallas 27
N.Y. Jets 26, Cincinnati 10

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA MEN'S STANDINGS

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Inter Godfather's	4	3	1	0	30	5	25	10
MP United	4	3	1	0	21	1	20	10
Wild Bills	4	3	1	0	18	3	15	10
KFAS	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
Matansa FC	4	2	0	2	7	5	2	6
Paire FC	4	1	1	2	7	14	-7	4
Baek Du San	4	1	1	2	7	15	-8	4
Independents	4	1	0	3	3	24	-21	3
Tan Holdings	3	0	1	2	5	9	-4	1
Shirley's	4	0	0	4	1	11	-9	0

Hustlers, Fotten Palau still reign in 8-ball league

By WALTER SUTHERLAND

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REPORTER



The Docomo Hustlers, of Utopia and USSP's Fotten Palau the maintained the top spot of their respective division after last Tuesday's games in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

In Agingan play, the Hustlers have a win-loss record of 63-28. They are still clinging to a two-game advantage over Jonny's IT&E Voyagers (61-30), with the Home Boyz (60-31), also out of Jonny's Bar, in third. Current notables include the Hustler's Jerry Soriano, who has a league-leading

eight run the tables.

In the Obyan division, Fotten Palau fell to 45-46 after a tough loss at home to Shark Attack (41-50), out of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, but the former is still in first place.

The win moved Shark Attack up to second place in the division and trimmed Fotten Palau's margin to four. Third seated Team Who-Oah! of D'Pirates Bar & Grill, now trails Shark Attack by just one game.

Current notables include Frank Palacios, who had an 8-ball off the break one-time, while Nong Detdon of the DPBG's Pirates, VFW ToroKeyRee's Jimmy Wong and FP's Taylor Watanabe each took a turn running the table last Tuesday.

Hustlers 4, Who-Oah! 3

At Utopia, the home team Hustlers swept the first two singles games, but then Team Who-Oah! bit back and swept the next two singles games before the Hustlers took the final singles match via tiebreaker, for the victory. Then each team swept a doubles game at the end.

Voyagers 4, ToroKeyRee 3

At VFW, the visiting Voyagers swept the first four singles matches for the victory. After securing the win, the Voyagers lost the final singles pairing and both doubles matches.

Shark Attack 5, Fotten Palau 2

At USSP, visiting Shark Attack won

three of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, and went on to win both doubles matches by tiebreaker.

Home Boyz 5, Turtles 2

At Jonny's Bar, the home team Home Boyz won three of the five singles matches, one via tiebreaker and went on to take both doubles matches by tiebreaker.

Incredibles 6, Pirates 1

At D'Pirates Bar & Grill, the visiting IT&E Incredibles out of Buddies' Bar & Grill won the first four singles matches, all by tiebreaker, and after losing the final singles game, they went on to take both double matches, one via tiebreaker.

UBA men's caging in the works

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER



The second season of the UBA Men's Basketball League is underway with the organizing United Basketball Association calling on all interested teams to attend their first meeting next week.

UBA president James Lee said they will be having a meeting on Nov. 30 at 6pm at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium to discuss initial details

for the 2010 edition of the men's caging.

Lee added they are hoping to open the league mid December with UBA eyeing to have at least 10 teams compete for the championship. UBA also aims to hold games in the UBA caging in an indoor court to avoid schedule problems due to rain.

Just like the inaugural UBA men's league, participating teams are required to play in uniforms (top only

is allowed) and form a 12-man roster. Entrance fee and deadline for submission of other league requirements will be discussed in next week's meeting.

This year's defending champion is Prospects, who swept the Ol'Aces in the short best-of-three series last season.

However, Prospects is likely to have a different roster if it decides to compete in the second season of the UBA men's caging. Prospects had already lost key players Bonbon Cadagat, Ryan

Sanciangco, and Chris Paul.

With Cadagat hitting shots everywhere in last year's finals, Prospect won Games 1, 75-68, and 2, 77-74. Cadagat was later named Finals MVP, while the regular season MVP trophy went to Kae Bernardo.

Joining Prospects and the Ol'Aces in last season's competition were Hoopaholics, Noni Saipan, Diamond Auto Fixers, Advance X-Terminators, Trinity Estate, Inc., and Cholos.

For more information about the upcoming UBA caging, contact Lee at 989-UBA1(8221) or via email at unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

TAN

From Page 28

Manlambayan leading the Round of 8 qualifiers. Joining them were Gio Hun, Mimi Sakano, Tania Tan, Catherine Atalig, Julia Ishikawa, and Malika Miyawaki.

Hun edged Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-1, 6-2, to advance against Liza Atalig; Tan defeated Juli Kim, 6-1, 6-3, and was facing Sakano in the quarterfinals yesterday; Catherine Atalig prevailed over Anna Calvert, 6-2, 6-0, to duel Ishikawa; and Miyawaki downed Sally Hwang, 6-1, 6-0, to meet Madlambayan.

In the boys U12, three had already made it to the quarterfinals. Top seed Carl Dela Cruz drew a bye in the first round to automatically advance in the

next round where he was joined by Caldwell and Woon Sun Cho.

Caldwell beat Satoshi Ohtsu at Fiesta yesterday, while Cho won by default over Quintin Ramsey. Five more Round of 16 matches at Fiesta, Hyatt, and AMP were played yesterday.

In the round-robin girls U12 singles, Carol Lee notched two wins after slipping past Isabel Heras, 7-6, 2-6, 11-9, and Tammy Ackerman (default). Adele Hudkins, Emily Jones, and Heras were awarded one victory each after a no-show from Ackerman, who is sick and could not make it to the games.

In the girls U15 singles, only one quarterfinals seat is left after Guam's Camdyn Nadler took the seventh spot, following a 6-0, 6-2 triumph over Amy

Arenovski. Other qualifiers were top seed Mikayla Lopez, Melody Johnson, Alina Ishikawa, Negahr Rastgui, Ashley Nadler, and Jee Hyun Lee.

The boys U15 is only in the Round of 16 with Alex Ormbo, Seiya Eda, Dela Cruz, Angelo Jones, and Anthony John bookings tickets in the said round.

Ormbo won by default over Tommy Choi; Eda downed Bob Kim, 6-0, 6-0; Dela Cruz blanked Gu Hyon Dong, 6-0, 6-0; John beay Byong Ha Kim, 6-3, 6-2; and Angelo Jones outclassed David Okuhama, 6-4, 6-1.

The boys U15 doubles also had its games yesterday with Jake Lee and Daniel Park whipping Ji Hoon Choi and Primo Po, 6-0, 6-1. In the other game, Kennedy Izuka and Chris Park thwarted Guam's Ryan Freeman and

Tom Park, 6-3, 3-6, 10-8.

In the boys U18 singles, second seed Rafael Jones led the semifinalists after winning over Andy Nutting. Rafael Jones will face in the semis Clay McCullough-Stearns, who won by default over Kenta Tanimoto.

The other semis pairing in the boys U18 will have top seed Ji Kent Kwah dueling Daniel Park, who edged Johnny Kang, 6-1, 7-5.

In the round-robin U18, sisters Thea and Theecl Minor won their opening games against Yuri Song, 6-0, 6-0, and Jodel Fernandez, 6-2, 6-1.

Adults doubles games in the second edition of the annual netfest will be played today and tomorrow with matches also scheduled at the Pacific Islands Club.

GOALS

From Page 28

5-0 advantage.

Daniel Stafford made it a 6-0 count with his goal in the 63rd minute before Shirley's finally scored in the 66th minute. MP United scored the last goal of the game when Jae Hyunk Yim found the back of the net in the 75th minute.

Shirley's remained winless in the league.

Baek Du San 6, Tan Holdings 3

In the last game last Sunday, Baek Du San edged Tan Holdings FC, 6-2.

The win allowed Baek Du San to recover from a 1-2 loss at the hands of Korean Football Association on Saipan on Nov. 18.

Sung Su Jung gave Baek Du San two goals, hitting his first in the 12th minute and the second in the 47th. Baek Du San had an own goal in the ninth minute to draw first blood before Jung made his first goal.

Tan Holdings sliced the lead to one, 1-2, off Jack Guo's goal in he 15th

minute before Gwang Sik Kim scored for a 3-1 lead, in favor of Baek Du San. Tan Holdings recorded two more goals in the first half, one each from Peteru Panapa (21st) and David Xiang, (32nd) to force a 3-3 deadlock at the break.

However, Tan Holdings went scoreless in the second half to hand the win to Baek Du San, which drew its two other goals from Guang Lin Li (76th) and Zhang Xin (79th).

Wild Bill's 4, Paire 0

Wild Bill's kept pace with rivals

Inter Godfather's and MP United after a 4-0 shutout win over Paire Football Club.

Andrew Moses put Wild Bill's in the scoreboard with his first and lone goal in the third minute. It took more than 30 minutes before Wild Bill's scored again in the first half, as Adul Detdon made it to the scoreboard only in the 38th minute.

Wild Bill's complete the shutout win after Jack Thoensaket notched two goals in the second half (66th and 72nd).

ROLLERS

From Page 28

proud of all of my teams because they are showing the Guam basketball community that we came to play, and even in four losses, we gave our opponents a good run for their money. I want all the readers and RBC-affiliated families to know that our boys are representing Saipan basketball very well over here in Guam," Diaz said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The U16-A Rollers fell to the Dededo Yellow Jackets, 39-49, in its first

game last Saturday, but bounced back to knock out the MTM Falcons, 38-31, last Monday night. It played a win or go home rematch against the Yellow Jackets last night at 7pm. Six teams make up the boys U16 Turkey Fly Division-A

The U12 Rollers lost its first game to the top-ranked Island Dragons, 7-51, last Saturday, but is still alive after the Tamuming Typhoons forfeited the next day. The U12 Rollers plays its must-win losers' bracket game against Typhoons PI today at 1pm. Four teams make up the co-ed

U12 Turkey Dash Division.

RBC's U18-A, U14-A and U21 teams have been eliminated from the double-elimination competition.

The U18-A Rollers fell to the Umatac 76ers, 51-64, last Sunday, but bounced back and won its second match over the MTM Falcons, 52-48, on Wednesday night. The U18-A Rollers then dropped its second loser's bracket game in a rematch against the 76ers by eight points yesterday. Eight teams made up the boys Turkey Shoot Division-A.

Also on Sunday, the U14-A squad

fell to the MTM Falcons, 31-27, and then bowed to the Barrigada Crusaders, 28-55, later that night. Eight teams made up the co-ed Turkey Run Division-A.

The U21 Rollers lost its first game to the Inarajan Hawks, 33-48, last Monday and then suffered a crushing overtime defeat to Team AF1, 64-65, the following evening. Five teams made up the boys Turkey Blast Division.

The 2010 Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest wraps up tomorrow and the RBC teams are expected to arrive early Tuesday morning.

Brees, Saints rally to beat Cowboys in thriller

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Johnson, Smith lead Hawks to easy win

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28 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tan Holdings Tennis Classic heats up

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic are in full swing, as all youth divisions had their games in four different courts yesterday.

In the boys U10 singles, what started as a 17-player competition is now down to eight. Making it to the quarterfinal round were Top 2 seeds Luther Lizama and Michael Ren, Alex Park, Steven Goodwin, Tony Kim, Clayton Izuka, Alfie Madlambayan, and Guam's Mason Caldwell.

Lizama shut out Hyun Tae Kim at the American Memo-



Mimi Sakano, right, goes for a return against Tania Tan, left, during their girls U12 singles game in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

rial Park tennis court yesterday morning, 6-0, 6-0, while Park had a similar 6-0, 6-0 triumph over James Kim, also at the AMP.

Goodwin and Tony Kim also played at the AMP and prevailed over James Hourican, 6-1, 7-6 and A.J. Hudkins, 7-5, 6-2, respectively.

Over at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court, Izuka and Caldwell defeated Michael Jones, 6-3, 6-1, and Edward Cho, 6-0, 6-1, respectively.

Madlambayan and Ren played at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court and topped Joshua Abragan, 6-4, 6-3, and Ken Song, 6-0, 6-0, respectively.

A few first round games in the boys U10 and other divisions were played as early as last Wednesday before majority of the matches in the youth singles and doubles took place yesterday.

The girls U10 singles is also in the quarterfinals with top-ranked Liza Atalig and Alfie

See TAN on Page 27

Goals galore in NMIFA men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



goals in five games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Leading the barrage of goals last week was Inter Godfather's, which blew out Matansa Football Club, 11-3, in the first game last Sunday.

Darin Keizer paced Inter Godfather's with three goals, making his first in the first half (23rd minute) and the last two in the second (67th and 69th).

Emery Fital put Inter-Godfather's in the scoreboard with his goal in the fourth minute. Ten minutes later, Arkie Reusora made it a 2-0 count. Matansa then finally broke into the scoreboard courtesy of Santa Kumur Tamang's goal in the 15th minute.

However, Inter Godfather's answered with five goals in the ensuing plays to take a commanding 7-1 lead. Masatoshi Otsuka logged

his first in the 18th minute and was followed by Keizer, Edwin Cruz (26th), Peter Loken (31st), and Cruz (40th) again.

In the second half, Bruce Berline started the scoring for Inter-Godfather's with his goal in the 57th minute before Keizer hit back-to-back goals. David Duenas posted Inter Godfather's last goal in the game (77th).

Matansa scored only two goals in the second half and both came from Bir Tamang (50th and 71st), dropping the team to a 2-0-2 win-draw-loss record.

Inter Godfather's improved to a 3-1-0 slate for a tie for first place with MP United and Wild Bills. After four games, Inter Godfather's has earned 30 goals against the 21 and 18 of MP United and Wild Bill's, respectively.

MP United 7, Shirley's 0

Also cruising to a dominating win was MP United, which downed Shirley's, 7-1.

Hyun Woo Woo and Bin Hong Moon tallied two goals apiece in the first half, while Nick Swaim added one to lift MP United to an early

See GOALS on Page 27

Strikers were on target in Week 4 of the 2010 NMIFA Men's Football Fall Cup, as winning teams combined for 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Baek Du San, left, uses his body to keep the ball against Wild Bill's during their game in the NMIFA men's league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Baek Du San won over Tan Holdings last Sunday, while Wild Bill's topped Paire.

Rollers enter semis in Guam hoops

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club's U16-U18 team made it to the semi-finals of Guam's 2010 Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest Tournament being played at the Tamuning Gymnasium, while two other RBC squads are in the thick of the fight in their respective divisions.

The Rollers' U16-U18 B team advanced through the first round after winning by forfeit over Thunder Cats Club last Saturday. The visitors then marched into the semifinals after pulling off a 39-37 overtime

victory against the Central Side Cobras.

RBC head coach Joe Diaz's wards were scheduled to face Guam's Tamuning Typhoons last night for an automatic championship berth. If the Rollers lose, it still has another chance to make it to the finals of the co-ed six-team Turkey Fly & Shoot Division-B.

In other news, RBC's Savali Talalemotu and Manny Matagolai made it to the 2010 Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest's scoring leaders list.

As of yesterday, Talalemotu

is ranked second in the U16 division with a total of 28 points and an average of 14 points per game. Matagolai is positioned in second in the U21 division with a 40 total points and an average of 20 points per game.

KUAM News interviewed the pair about their impressive performances. The University of Guam also contacted Talalemotu about a potential college scholarship.

"There is a lot of good basketball going on over here. It is very competitive and at the same time educational, especially for the younger players. I am really

See ROLLERS on Page 27



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Members and coaches of the Rollers Basketball Club pose for a group photo during clean-up drive recently. RBC is currently in Guam competing in the youth basketball tournament.